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FEBRUARY ISSUE



COVER IMAGE BUNNINGS

This issue

- 13 HANDY STUFF**
Cool off in the pool and stay safe with these must-have accessories
- 18 BUYER'S GUIDE**
Find the best adhesives, fillers and sealants for your DIY jobs



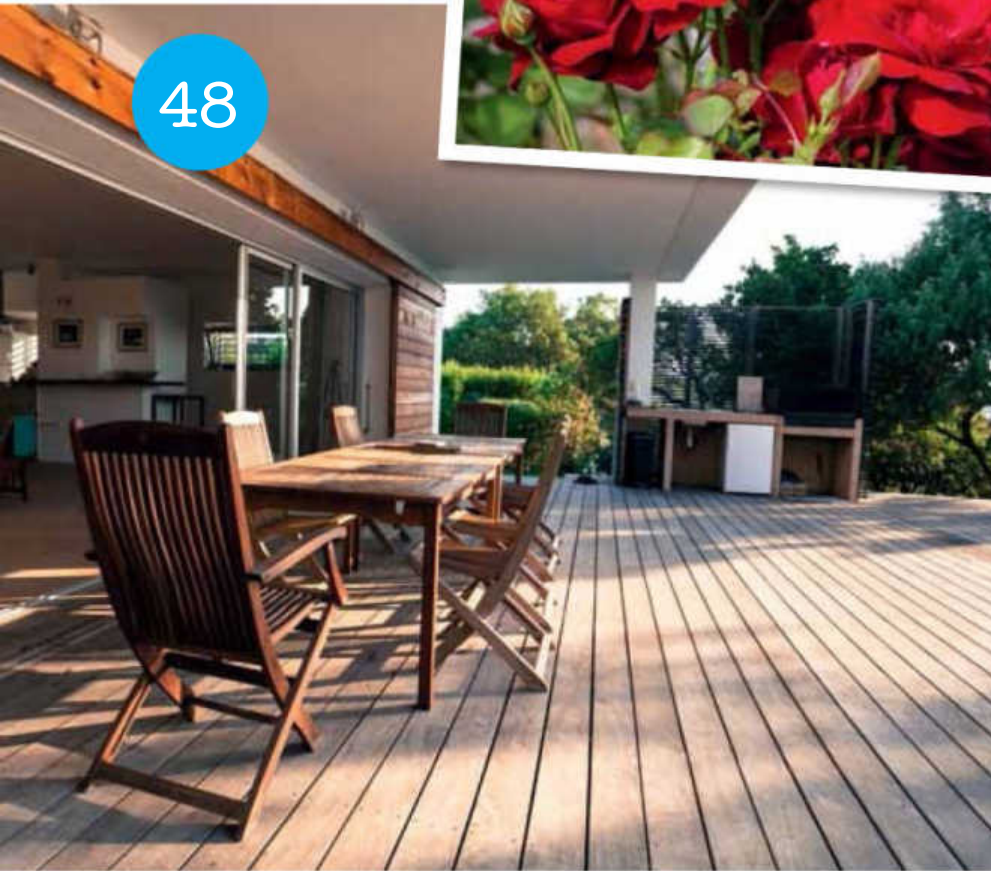
Renovate

- 20 HAMPTONS STYLE**
An original Queenslander gets a classic American makeover
- 28 SPACES FOR KIDS**
Create bedrooms on a budget for toddlers, tweens and teens
- 35 KITCHEN MAGIC**
One room gets four different treatments to suit all lifestyles
- 46 UPDATE YOUR LAUNDRY**
Design a space that is sleek, functional and big on storage

Subscribe
to *Handyman* p131



48



83



Outdoor

- 48 INSTALL A CLASSIC DECK**
How to choose and lay boards
- 54 REFINISH A DECK**
Make old timber look like new
- 58 FROM BARE TO BRILLIANT**
New surfaces bring a patio to life
- 62 RED-BRICK WALKWAY**
Lay a path using reclaimed bricks
- 66 PAVE A PATIO**
Create an outdoor living area DIY
- 68 POWER CLEAN PAVING**
The best tools to revive pavers
- 70 COOL & SHADY**
Smart ways to beat the heat

Build

- 83 80s GREATS**
Three retro furniture projects
- 96 JIGSAW TABLETOP**
Get creative with floor swatches

Decorate

- 98 UPCYCLE AND SAVE CASH**
Make over preloved homewares
- 104 FEATURE WALL**
Use paint or wallpaper for effect

Garden

- 110 THIS MONTH**
Water smarter, sow autumn vegies and enjoy the end of summer
- 114 PLACEMENT PERFECTION**
Give your plants the right spot in the garden for a lush landscape
- 120 HAVE HERBS AT HAND**
Grow culinary herbs and freeze or dry the excess for winter use
- 128 THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL**
Add dramatic-looking plants for exotic colour and a tropical touch
- 136 NAME THAT FLOWER**
Test your plant knowledge with our fun pop quiz



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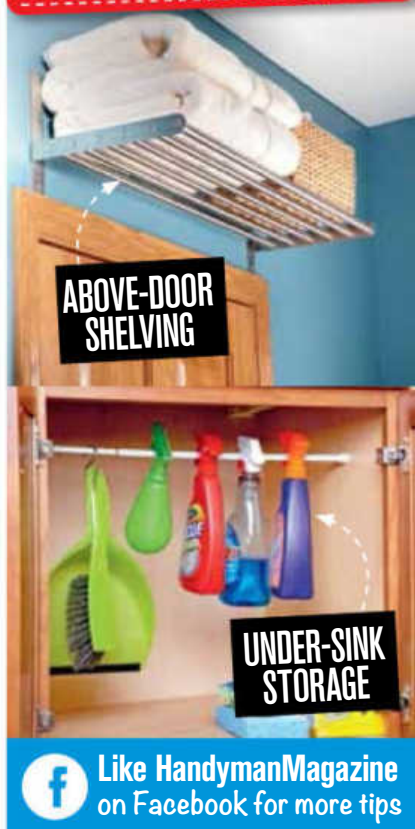
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINTS OF THE MONTH



EDITOR'S LETTER



When choosing a new house, most people tend to be swayed by the look and feel of the kitchen.

In this issue, we feature a house where the existing kitchen was totally transformed with surface treatments for under \$1000, on page 35. Then three new kitchens were installed using the same footprint.

The variety of styles, budgets and options will inspire you to see what is achievable in your own home.

DIY made easy

Every month, *Handyman* offers lots of great building projects, home repairs, decorating ideas and gardening advice, but now we give you much more.

Check out our website for inspiring how-to videos on projects ranging from building a deck and painting like a pro to installing a built-in BBQ and making a hanging basket.

We've also filmed life hacks, showing quick home DIY problem solvers. And for more helpful content, we point you to videos created by Bunnings team members on topics covered in the issue.

All of these videos are a great guide to understanding how projects are put together, and seeing them in action helps you visualise the process.

Project makers

On weekends, Chief subeditor Amanda Shaw and friend Tracy Maryon upcycle furniture and household items, giving them a new lease of life.

They find pieces at op-shops or on council clean-up days, then transform and sell them at the local markets, truly turning trash into treasure. On page 98, they show us their latest creations and tell us how to get the look.

Also in this issue, *Handyman* project maker Gun Arvidssen has designed three fantastic pieces of furniture inspired by pop culture of the 1980s. See page 83 to check them out.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

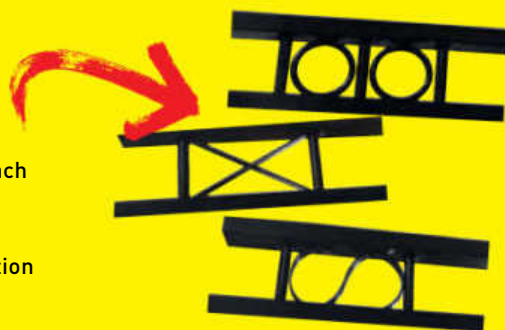


PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

If you are about to install or you already have an existing boundary fence, you can now create a designer finishing touch using decorative fence toppers from Protector Aluminium.

Available in three different designs, the toppers cost \$35 each and measure 120 x 2400mm.

Easy to install, they can be simply glued or screwed in position (protectoraluminium.com.au).





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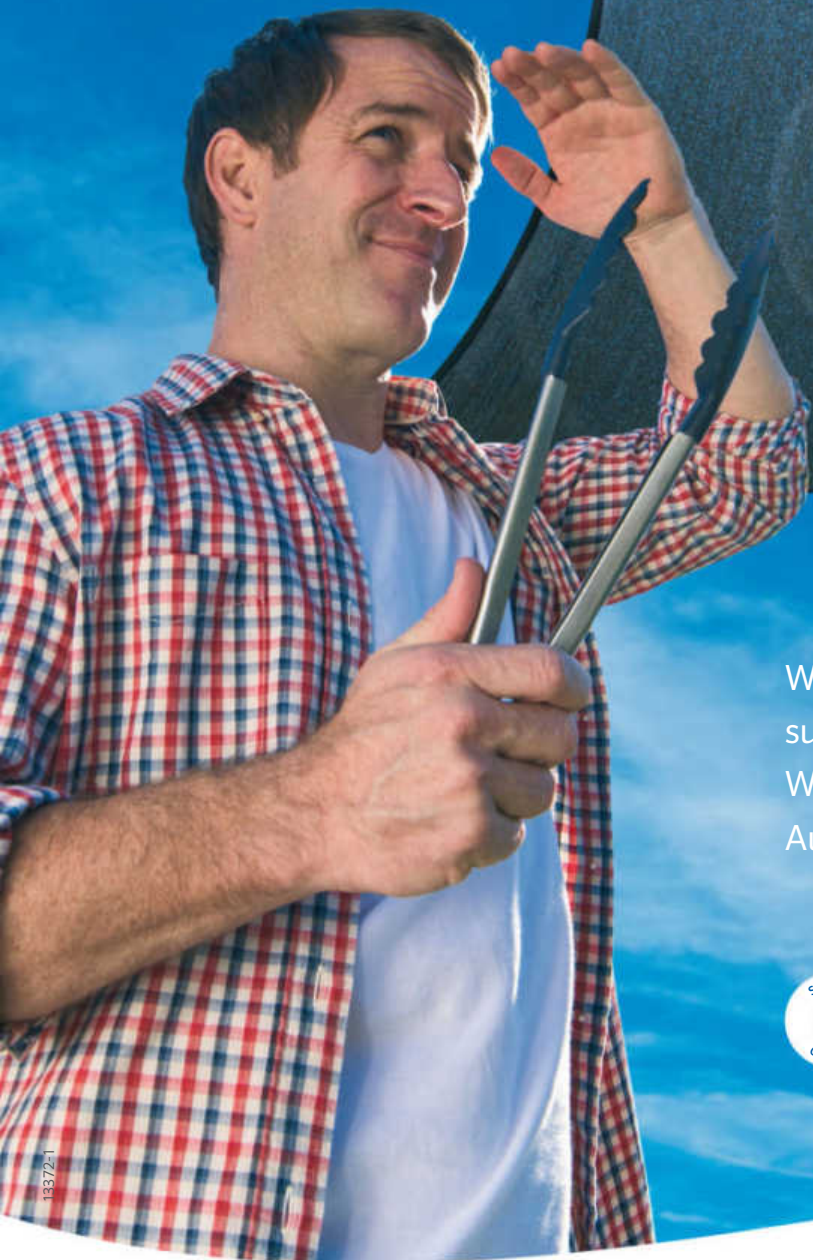
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WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Water wicker

Dry yourself off with the big 150cm fringed Bambury Round Printed Tulum Beach Towel, \$75. Available in two colourways, Sorbet and Aqua, it's 100% cotton, making it a luxurious way to wipe off water. bambury.com.au

Pack 'n' protect

Store pool toys and other gear in a Keter 390L Glenwood Outdoor Storage Box, \$119, to protect them from the harsh elements. An automatic mechanism assists opening and closing on this UV-stable polypropylene vessel. outstore.com.au



Tot towel

Find a fun way to entice kids out of the pool at the end of the day with the delightful 3 Sprouts Monkey Hooded Towel, \$43. Your toddler will love being wrapped up in this soft and cosy terry towelling and cotton towel. zanui.com.au



Sun soaker

Pad a chair with a Mojo Grey Sunlounge Cushion, \$55. Made of UV-resistant and showerproof spun polyester, it will stand the test of time in an Aussie yard. It measures 530 x 50 x 1980mm and is a universal fit for pool chairs. > bunnings.com.au



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Merry melon

Embrace a summer theme with the fresh and fruity look of the Sunny Life Inflatable Watermelon Ball, \$19. It measures 350mm in diameter and is perfect for tossing around at a pool party with the kids on a hot day.

top3.com.au



Splash sport

Challenge your teens to a rowdy round of Wahu Pool Party Pool Basketball, \$40. The kit is easy to inflate and deflate for fast set up and storage. Suitable for kids over the age of five, it measures 29 x 31 x 8.4cm in size.

wahu.com.au



Drifting donut

Let the kids cool off by floating around in their favourite tasty treat, a Junior Donut, \$29. Covered in frosting and sprinkles, this 80cm inflatable ring comes in Chocolate or Strawberry. It's also available in an adult 120cm size, \$39.

theoriginaldonut.com.au

Beach babe

Make your mini-me's day with the Young Ones Sand and Water Table, \$25. Designed for children aged two and over, it has two compartments for sand and water, plus 14 pieces to play with, including buckets and spades. ➤

target.com.au

Fintastic fun

Mimic a mermaid all day long with the Finis Mermaid Swim Fin, \$32. A quick-release Velcro strap adjusts around the feet to fit shoe sizes 1-7 for kids aged six and over. It's available in three colours, blue, pink and purple.

finisinc.com





Little lifesaver

Keep children afloat in the swimming pool or at the beach with a Floaties Swim Vest, \$30. Available in both a butterfly and spaceship design, this vest features a tamper-proof safety buckle and zipper loop.

toysrus.com.au



Quality check

Assess the levels of free chlorine, pH, water hardness and total alkalinity to help prevent setting off sensitive skin with the Hy-Clor 4-in-1 Pool Test Kit, about \$43. Secure in a compact blue storage box, there are refills available.

hyclor.com.au

Speed shutter

Make sure the pool gate snaps shut swiftly with the D & D Technologies KwikFit Self-closing Pool Safety Hinge, \$10. Made of super-strong engineered polymer and stainless steel, it won't rust, bind, sag or stain.

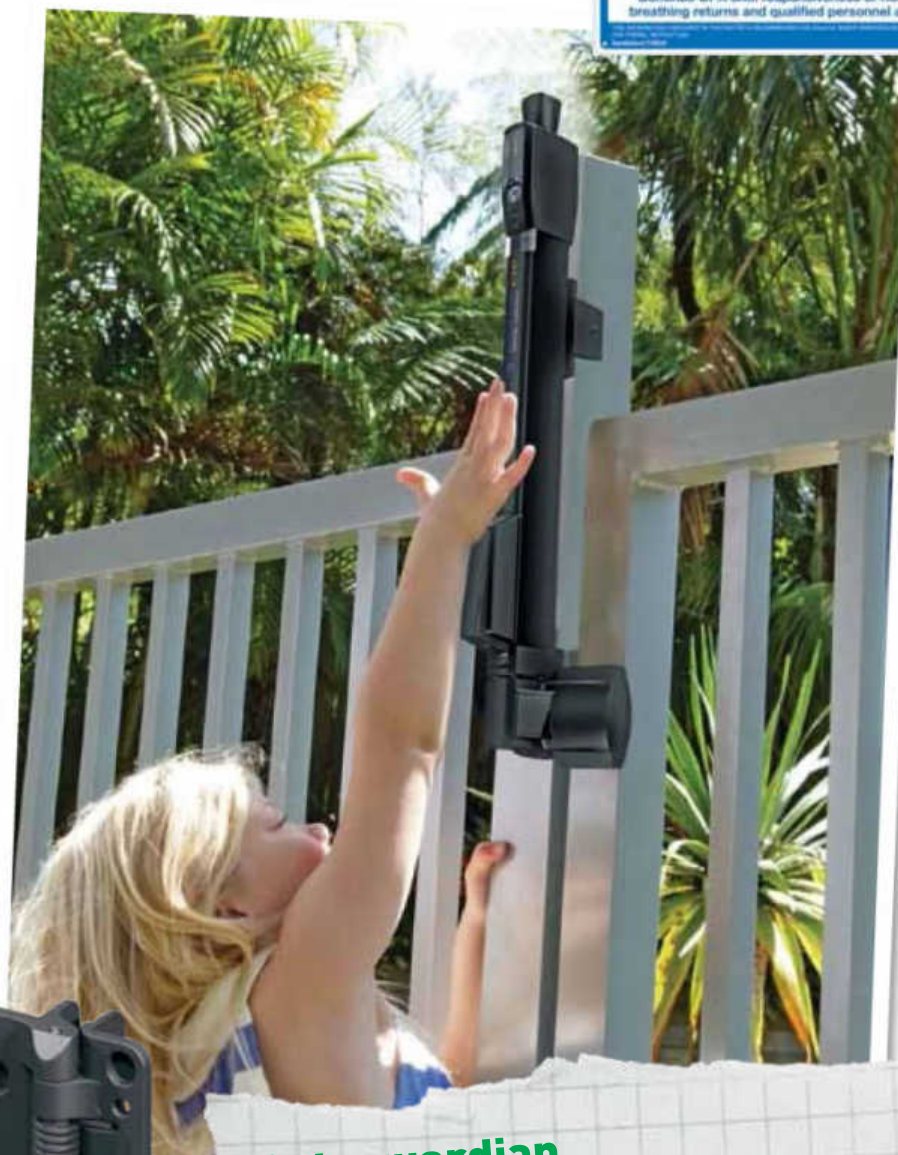
au.ddtechglobal.com



Backyard basic

Take charge of your kids' safety in the pool with the Sandleford 450 x 600mm Pool Resuscitation Chart Plastic Sign, \$31. Durable and UV resistant, it won't fade, leaving clearly visible life-saving instructions on the fence.

sandleford.com.au



Gate guardian

The MagnaLatch Alert Top Pull Safety Gate Latch-Alarm, \$195, is key lockable and stops kids entering the pool area alone. Flashing LED lights and a beep alert you to when the gate has been left open.

au.ddtechglobal.com

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BUYER'S GUIDE

ADHESIVES & FILLERS



Tradie trick

Go pro with Dunlop Builder's Bond, complete with self-mixing nozzle, \$28 for 254ml.

Gel grip

Bond anything back together with extra-strong Loctite Go2 Gel, \$8 for 18ml.



Screw shield

Secure screws with Loctite 222 Threadlocker Super Screw Lock, \$14 for 10ml.

Damp dam

Patch up holes in the kitchen or bathroom with ready-to-use Sika Filler 107, \$14 for 500ml.



Cornice cure

Install or repair cornices fast with Gyprock Pre-mixed Cornice Cement, \$26 for 6kg.



Speed stick

Tackle repair jobs with Sika MaxTack Construction Adhesive, \$11 for 300ml.



Foam filler

Close large, irregular holes with Polyfilla Expanding Foam, about \$16 for 390g.



Hole helper

Keep Earl's Powder Putty Multi-Purpose Filler on hand to hide holes, \$9 for 500g.



Get the job done right with this round-up of glues, fillers and sealants for every DIY application

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Tile tack

Replace tiles in wet areas with Dunlop Tile-All Plus adhesive and sealer, \$21 for 310ml.



Crystal clear

Waterproof windows with Selleys Clear Silicone Glass Sealant, about \$11 for 310g.



Fresh face

Revamp dingy tiling in one day with Davco Rejuvenation Grout, about \$27 for 1.7kg.



Builder basic

Put a project together with Poly Ultra Nails Construction Adhesive, about \$3 for 320g.



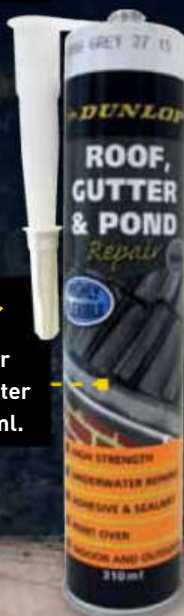
Brick buddy

Fix cracks or crevices in brickwork with Selleys Mortar Works, \$16 for 440g.



Wet worker

Seal joints or cracks under water with Dunlop Roof, Gutter & Pond Repair, \$15 for 310ml.



Water watcher

Protect bathrooms with Davco Green K10 Plus Waterproofing Membrane, \$83 for 4L.



Strong seal

Weatherproof joints with SikaSeal Roof and Gutter Silicone Sealant, \$8 for 300ml.



HAMPTONS STYLE

A Queenslander gets a transatlantic renovation that looks right at home

WORDS SITA SIMONS



This 1880s Brisbane home required serious attention. It was dark and cold, and in need of renovations typical of the many Queenslanders in the area.

'There's a lot to love about a Queenslander, but the design is essentially flawed,' says architect Claus Ejlerlsen of Baahouse + Baastudio (baastudio.com.au).

'The instantly recognisable elements of the wraparound verandahs and elevation on stilts are actually inefficient for airflow.

'The rooms are closed off and dark, and the corrugated roofs and thin timber walls are poor insulators,' he says.

The deck was cleverly integrated into the living space to bring the outdoors in.



Dormer windows break up the expanse of the roof.



Design focus

A Queenslander's facade is heritage listed, but clever architectural design will keep the character intact while upgrading for today's requirements.

With this property, the sloping block meant it had no street appeal. So the landscaping at the front was tackled first to create a level platform for the house to sit on, with the elevation now only visible from the back.

The feature that had the biggest impact overall was the roof.

'It was obvious something elegant and effective had to be done with the roof. As it's visible from the street, it was a dominating feature,' says Claus.

'We were probably one of the first in Brisbane to use shingles. This American bitumen product is used widely in Cape Cod and Hamptons style architecture, and from that decision, the direction we were going to take became clear.' ➤



The coastal style of classic Hamptons design is a perfect fit for Australia and the bones of a Queenslander



Floorplan flip

Referencing the elevation of the old Queenslander, the main living and dining areas and kitchen are upstairs.

While most renovations put living areas at ground level with the bedrooms above, working around the limitations of the plot realised the most successful resolution for this house.

'There were a couple of issues here. The slope from the front to the back resulted in a meagre yard. It was dark downstairs with flat 2.7m ceilings, making it impossible to get that vaulted space we wanted to create,' says Claus.

Off the hallway, there is a dining room cum library, as well as the master bedroom. The living areas and kitchen form the rest of the space.

The original living area was small and the verandah took up a lot of the footprint of the house, so the deck was integrated into the living room to create an expansive space.

BUDGET TIP

Get a quote from three builders and consult with your architect as this could potentially save you thousands of dollars.



ABOVE An intimate dining nook was created off the hallway.
BELOW In the living area, sliding doors opening onto the deck can be left open for most of the year.



Plantation shutters provide protection from the weather and create filtered light.

Opening up

An open-air void provides a covered link between the lower and upper levels and houses the timber sliding doors on the deck when they are open.

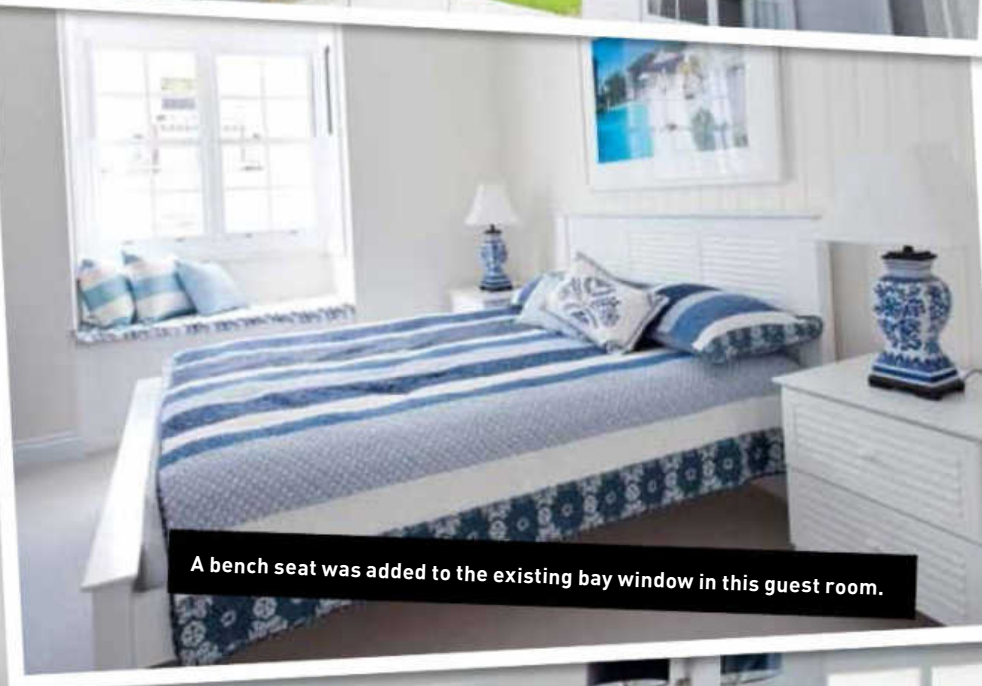
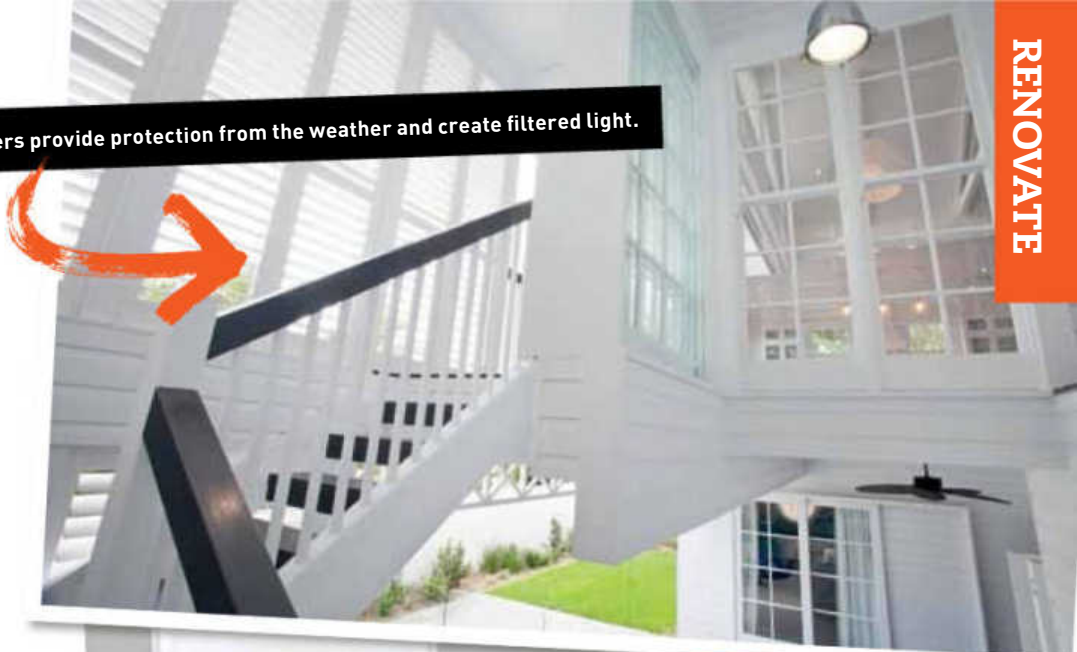
Windows are a feature of this renovation and the original single casements were changed to double hung style to allow in more light.

In the bedrooms, extra insulation is achieved with thick carpeting and by converting the existing single skin walls to double skin, with insulation batts in between.

In the main bathroom, the use of materials is simple and the focus is on the details and finishes.

'Using reflective surfaces such as large mirrors and glossy stone creates light and depth and adds to the feeling of luxury,' says Claus.

'A lot of the success of a bathroom is in the layout, and it's always worth rearranging it if it's not working. But in this case, we worked with the existing room and windows.'



A bench seat was added to the existing bay window in this guest room.

Tiling right up to the ceiling in the bathroom makes the space appear bigger



Fresh white and black accents create a luxurious bathroom.

Kitchen centrepiece

Flowing off from the living area, the kitchen is the showpiece of the house. Claiming over 6.5 x 5m of floorspace, every detail was carefully planned.

'We spent months getting the cabinetry design right, as it's such an important feature of this look.

'It was all custom-made and the style is constant throughout the house, with the detailed panelling and shell drawer handles. It extends right up to picture rail height, with a mix of solid and glass-panelled doors,' says Claus.

'The original picture rail was retained and bulkheads built around the cabinetry for the continuity, which is really effective,' he says.

'The three lights are a classic addition and, overall, while very detailed, the finish isn't fussy. This is key to achieving the Hamptons style.'



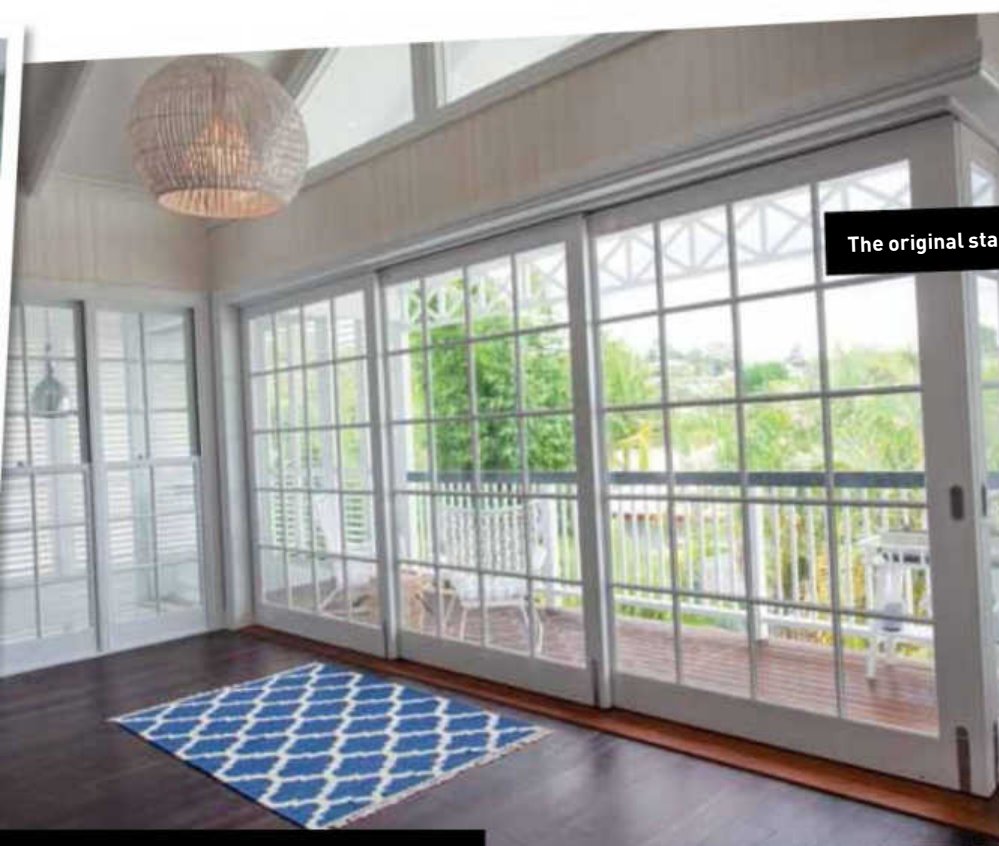
The oversized island and benchtops are topped with glossy black marble.

DESIGN TIP

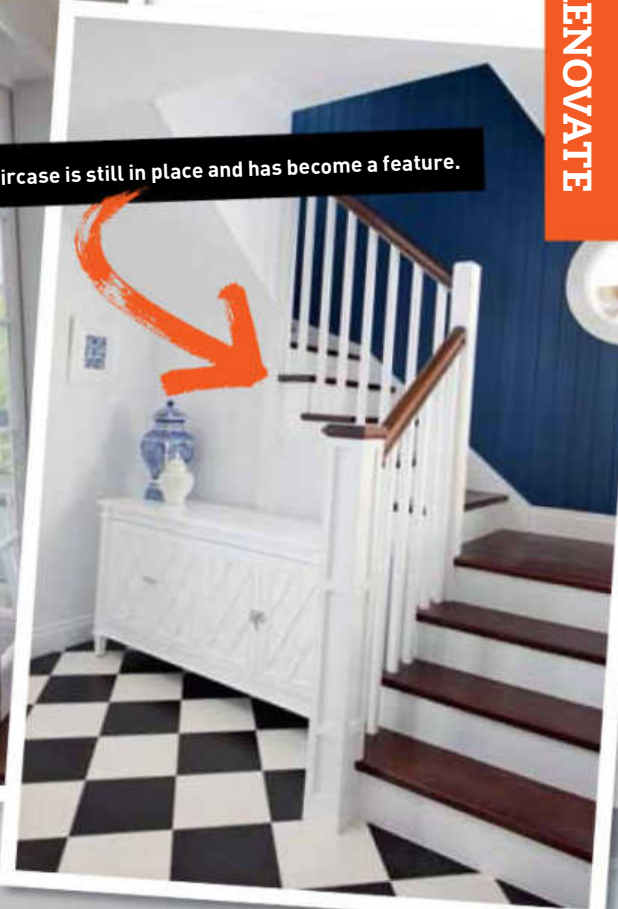
To create more intimacy in an open-plan, eat-in kitchen and allow for better lighting, keep the ceiling height low.



★
Dark chocolate-coloured engineered hardwood flooring in the living areas adds warmth



The original staircase is still in place and has become a feature.



ABOVE In winter, the sliding doors can be closed to give a cosy environment, without sacrificing the views.

BELOW A nautical theme for the kids' rooms works with the style.



Boys' bunkers

The downstairs was turned into a space for the owners' sons. They each have a large bedroom with a walk-in robe and ensuite.

There's also a mud room, another traditional American feature, where they can take off dirty shoes and keep sports equipment, as well as a rumpus room, which provides a casual space. ➤

The Queenslander's vertical boards were replaced with horizontal timber weatherboards.

BUDGET TIP

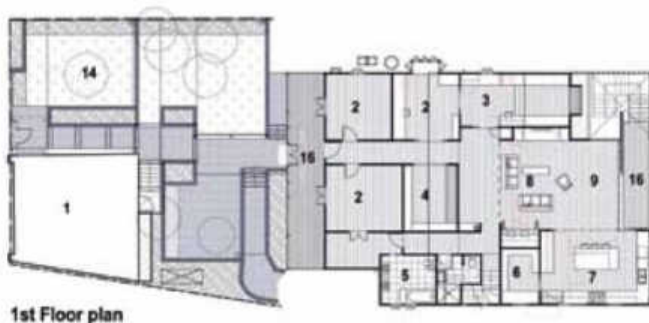
Know where to save and where to spend. While an addition such as a pool may seem like a luxury, it adds to the enjoyment value.

Backyard bliss

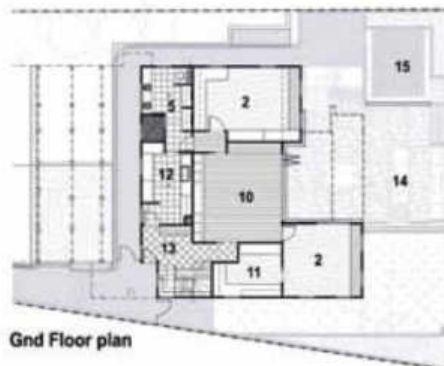
The original backyard was a sloping site, and measured only 6m to the boundary fence. So it was levelled and a swimming pool installed, opening up the space and giving it purpose.

'In a way, we have created two backyards in doing this. A usable area for the kids and their friends, with the deck above where the adults can relax and watch over them,' says Claus.

Tall louvres, crisp white paint and pendant lighting make the high vaulted void joining the two levels a pleasant and functional addition, rather than it being just a dead space.



1st Floor plan



Gnd Floor plan

- Key:
- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1- Garage | 6- Butlers Pantry | 11- Robe |
| 2- Bed | 7- Kitchen | 12- Laundry |
| 3- Office | 8- Lounge | 13- Mudroom |
| 4- Library | 9- Dining | 14- Outdoor landscaped area |
| 5- Ensuite | 10- Family | 15- Pool |
| | | 16- Deck |



The footprint of the house remains the same, but the new design maximises space and light



Garage revamp

A common feature of a Queenslander is the carport located at the front of the property, with its purpose purely practical rather than aesthetic.

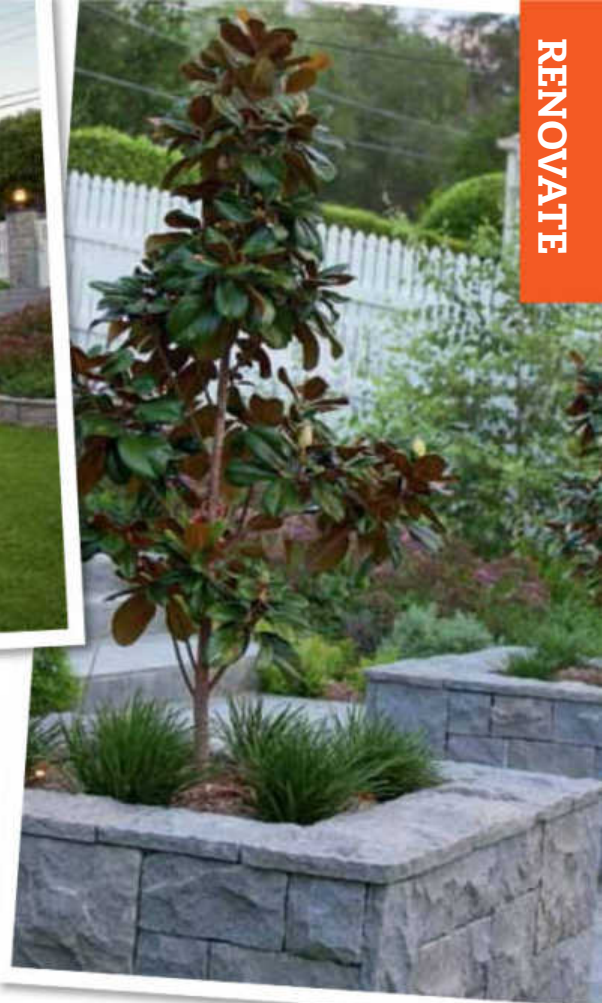
'The problem with a carport at the front is that it tends to take over, or dictate the property style,' says Claus.

'The only way to enhance and integrate what was essentially an ugly addition was to turn it into a cottage. And while used for parking, it can be easily converted into a workshop, studio or extra accommodation.

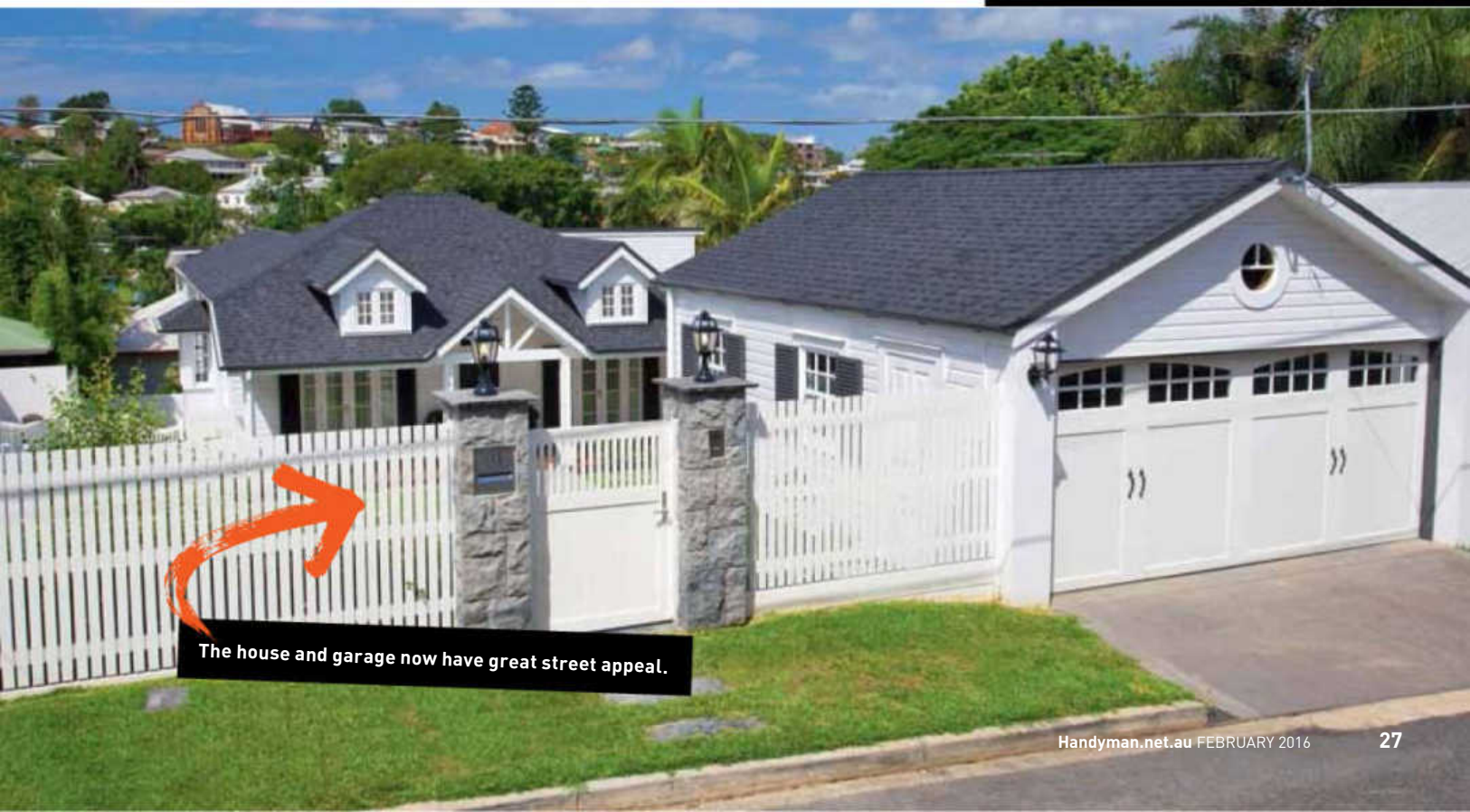
'Whatever we did with the house, we replicated on the carport. This actually makes it disappear and the house remains the standout feature.

'When you walk round this house, you don't feel like there's been a huge renovation. It looks complementary and natural, and that is I think a great indication of success,' says Claus.

'It's a true enhancement of what was already built, which is about configuring the rooms in the right positions, creating comfortable spaces to live in and maximising views.'



ABOVE Two formal stone planters form striking features in the levelled front yard.
BELOW The cleverly renovated carport at the front reflects the design of the house so it blends in rather than stands out.



The house and garage now have great street appeal.

Spaces for kids

Kit out your child's bedroom without too much stress or strain on your budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Keeping up with your children's changing tastes can be a costly exercise if you don't select carefully when decorating their bedrooms from the start. But it's not impossible with a few tricks.

We show you how to strike the delicate balance of designing a solo space for any age that is easy to update while still ensuring a mix of essential items such as storage, your child's favourite colours and their toys.



Find furniture ideas for kids' rooms

Head to handyman.net.au/kids-projects

PICTURE: ISTOCK

GET THE LOOK

Create a decorative wall feature with a variety of affordable stickers.

Hape Rock and Ride Rocking Horse, \$85.
toygalaxy.com.au

Zizo Home Network Jute Natural Cherry Rug, \$68.
zizo.com.au

MAGNETIC MAGIC

Dulux Wash & Wear Low Sheen in Magnetic Magic, \$86 for 4L. dulux.com.au

Clever Cube Compact 2 x 2 White Storage Unit, \$19.
handy-storage.com.au



Toddler territory

Stimulate your little's brain with a creative collection of toys and accessories that will encourage them to explore their space and learn.

Go for vivid colours, a range of textures and low furniture to spark motor skills as they go from crawling to walking. ➤

Use alphabet magnets as fun and educational accessories.

Wonderland in a weekend...

with Porta mouldings



1 VI-4410 [or] OD-3310



2 CR-6711



3 INS-3111



4 COA-6611



With so many fabulous moulding designs, decorating your kid's room is easy and fun. From bookcases to bed surrounds, picture frames and dolls houses. The possibilities are as endless as your imagination. Take a look at our website to see the hundreds of different moulding options and start creating your magical wonderland.

Available from Bunnings and major timber & hardware outlets.

www.porta.com.au



Tween dream

Once your child begins to approach their teenage years, you'll need to revamp their room to reflect their developing maturity, and add an area where they can do homework.

Upgrade the bed to a single or double to accommodate growth spurts and add lots of storage. ➤

Let your kid choose the colour theme and get them involved in the makeover.



GET THE LOOK

ROSE
TRELLIS

Taubmans Easycoat Walls
Low Sheen in Rose Trellis, \$56
for 4L. taubmans.com.au

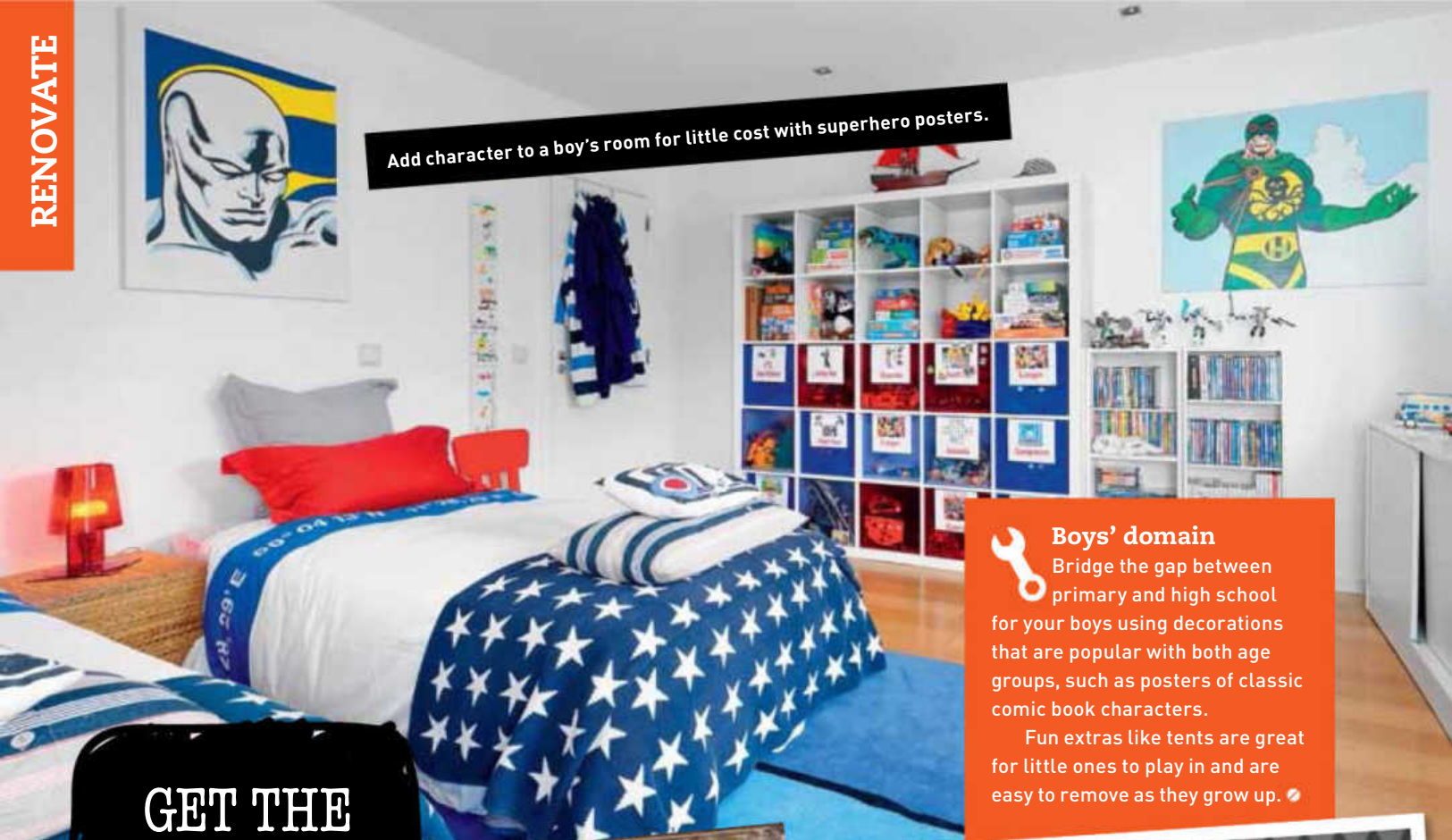
Fantastic Furniture
Bunny Chair in Pink, \$69.
fantasticfurniture.com.au

Porta Primed Pine Bullnose
Moulding 66 x 18mm,
\$10 for 2.7m. porta.com.au

Hufflett 160 x 230cm Olinda
Polyester Shag Pile Rug in
Raspberry, \$219, from Bunnings.

Make room for a desk to use as a creative space and for studying.

Add character to a boy's room for little cost with superhero posters.



Boys' domain

Bridge the gap between primary and high school for your boys using decorations that are popular with both age groups, such as posters of classic comic book characters.

Fun extras like tents are great for little ones to play in and are easy to remove as they grow up.

GET THE LOOK



Marvel Comics Iron Man The Suit Makes The Man Retro Tin Sign, \$30. yellowoctopus.com.au

Put up a teepee your toddler will love as a hide-out.



Clever Cube Compact 4 x 4 White Storage Unit, \$86. handy-storage.com.au



Clever Cube Red Plastic 330 x 330 x 370mm Insert, \$15, from Bunnings.

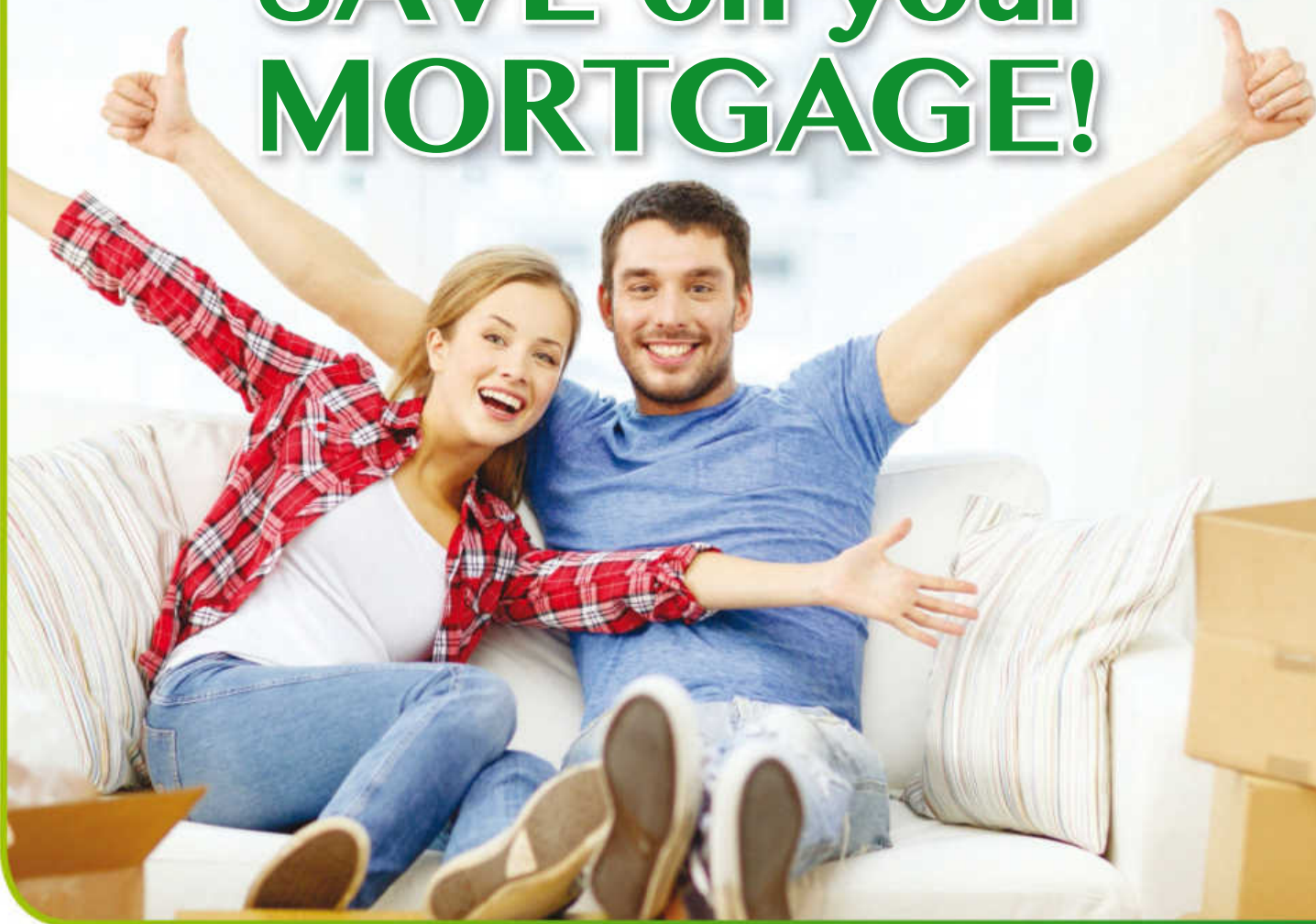


Nursery Design White Hexagonal Kids Teepee Tent, \$140. nurserydesign.com.au



PICTURES (TOP) ALAMY (BOTTOM) GETTY IMAGES

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 **kaboodle.**
KITCHEN



open the door to functionality

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From our high quality wire pullout baskets to our removable door mounted bins, we have everything you need to add functionality back into your kitchen!

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You too can have the whole kit and kaboodle.

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warehouse
bunnings.com.au

DESIGN TIP

An open-plan kitchen complements modern life, but include plenty of storage to keep clutter out of sight.

Design a kitchen to suit your lifestyle and budget.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Transform a dated space into a modern haven for cooking, eating and socialising

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT AND ARTEMIS GOUROS

As one of the busiest rooms in the house, especially in a family home, an outdated kitchen not only makes preparing meals more of a chore than a pleasure but also presents storage issues.

The two main elements to consider as you plan a renovation to the hub of the home are layout and lifestyle.

Your kitchen needs to be designed for maximum functionality and to suit your day-to-day life.

Budget is a key factor, so plan ahead to get the most bang for your buck when renovating the kitchen. ➤

ONE KITCHEN, **FOUR** WAYS

Before

Kitchen upgrade

If you have an original or even just an old kitchen, replacing it is probably at the top of your renovation to-do list, but lack of funds or motivation may be what's holding you back.

This 70s kitchen was given four different treatments to show just what can be done to one space, depending on budget and lifestyle needs.

Whether you want to do a DIY makeover or rip out the kitchen and start from scratch, you'll find inspiration in these designs. ➤

The kitchen sees a lot of action every day, ageing faster with wear and tear than other areas of your home

Rejuvenation



Industrial

Country



Contemporary

COMBINES GOOD LOOKS AND FUNCTIONALITY

Sophisticated, spirited and stylish. The Vixen range is stunning in both looks and functionality, with a two tone finish making it an ideal kitchen feature. Let your self be seduced by Vixen.

Vixen Retractable Sink Mixer (I/N 5003232) available now at Bunnings.



Watch the video 'How to Paint Laminate Kitchen Cabinets' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice.

UNDER
\$1000
COST



GET THE
LOOK

Zone Interiors 180 x 150cm PVC Venetian Blind in Winter White, \$123. zoneinteriors.com.au

1

Budget rejuvenation

If you don't have a large stash of cash to spend on fixing up your kitchen, you can do simple surface transformations DIY with as little as \$1000.

Paint is the secret weapon to combatting a mishmash of colours and patterns. Use laminate and tile paint to easily resurface benchtops, cabinets and splashbacks.

Charcoal is a good colour to mask wear and tear, and white always looks fresh. Complete the look with new vinyl flooring and a venetian blind. ➤



Choose a classic colour to make a reno stand the test of time

Gerflor Essential 3m Wide Living Grey Sheet Vinyl Floor Roll, \$47 per metre. gerflor.com.au



White Knight White Laminate Paint, \$49 for 1L. whiteknightpaints.com.au

2 Industrial design
Creating a functional space with a bit of wow factor is easy if you have a reasonable budget to play with.

This kitchen has wide benchtops for meal preparation and an island for dining, while subway tiles paired with dark grout for the splashback make clean-up quick and easy.

New laminate benchtops have a dramatic impact but are inexpensive and easy to maintain. Stainless steel appliances and white metal pendant lights add an industrial feel. ➤



Install task lighting for benchtops under wall cabinets

GET THE LOOK

Kaboodle 600mm Cottagini Cut to Measure Benchtop, \$157 per linear metre. kaboodle.com.au

Dulux Design Black Chalkboard Paint, \$26 for 500ml. dulux.com.au

Johnson Tiles 200 x 100mm Waringa White Ceramic Wall Tile, 61c, from Bunnings.

Brilliant 38cm Maxwell White Metal Shade, about \$73. brilliantlighting.com.au

Watch the video 'How to Paint a Chalkboard Wall' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice.

UNDER \$12,000 COST

The fully integrated Surface Water Drainage Solution



Installing an effective, fully integrated surface water drainage system is

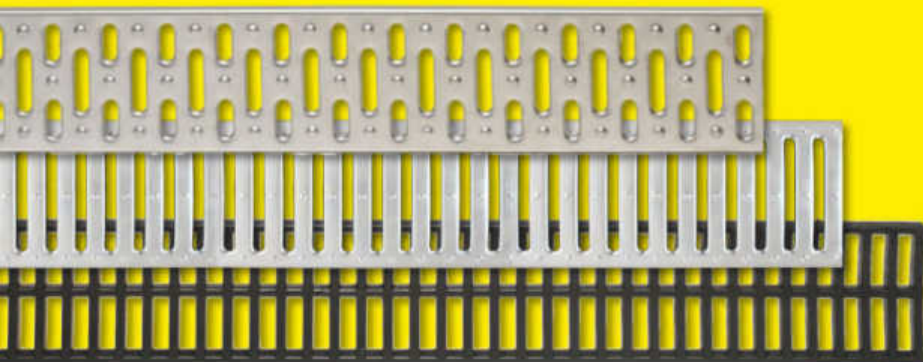
Easy As 1, 2, 3
Prepare • Install • Finish

EasyDRAIN™ Channel and Grate comes in 1 metre and 3 metre lengths and is made from tough, recycled UV stabilised polymer, making it super light and easy to handle.

The EasyDRAIN™ system allows for a range of configurations using the corners, tee pieces and slim pits that simply click together. Pre-moulded outlets allow for easy integration into your existing stormwater system.

EasyDRAIN™ Channel and components come complete with a choice of grates including pressed stainless steel and pressed galvanised steel, or black polymer that has a wheel load rating of 1.5 tonne making it suitable for driveways.

Best of all, installation requires just three easy steps – prepare, install, finish.



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National Customer Service Number 13 1926

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3 Country escape

To set up an open-plan area that can be used for both weekday meals or casual dinner parties, a freestanding island with stools and feature lighting is key.

Guests can chat to the cook as they move effortlessly around the working triangle of sink, stove and fridge.

A double-doored pantry and under-bench cabinets and drawers help keep workstations clear, while glass-doored wall cabinets double as storage and display. ➤



Pair neutral tones and modern appliances for a timeless look

GET THE LOOK

Kaboodle 2400 x 600 x 35mm Bamboo Benchtop, \$459.
kaboodle.com.au

Mondella WELS 4 Star Maestro Chrome Lever Sink Mixer, \$167.
mondella.com.au



Everdure 60cm 8 Function Built-in Electric Oven, \$509.
everdure.com



Bellini 90cm Stainless Steel Canopy Rangehood, \$249, from Bunnings.

UNDER \$15,000 COST

Watch the video 'How to Install a Bamboo Benchtop' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice.

STYLISH WATER FILTER TAP – DIY KIT



There's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap.



These stylish European taps will have your kitchen looking fantastic. They have a lever for BRITA filtered water and a lever for your unfiltered hot/cold water. The filter is tucked from view beneath the sink to provide filtered water for six months. A sensor lets you know when it's time to replace.

There's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap.

They give you great tasting filtered water at your fingertips. Just ask restaurateur and MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan.

Water is an essential ingredient and if you get the basics right, you have the foundation for good cooking. Filtered water brings out the true flavours and aromas of your food.

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bunnings.com.au



4 Contemporary classic

For a luxurious, modern renovation, team stone benchtops with timber cabinetry. Stone is not only durable, but also scratch and heat resistant.

An earthy colour palette completes the high-end simplicity of this design and complements the minimalist look. The effect is enhanced by the mirrored splashback and glass pendant lights.

For a true entertainer's delight, a butler's pantry provides essential extra storage, plus a place to wash up and prep out of sight of guests. ✨



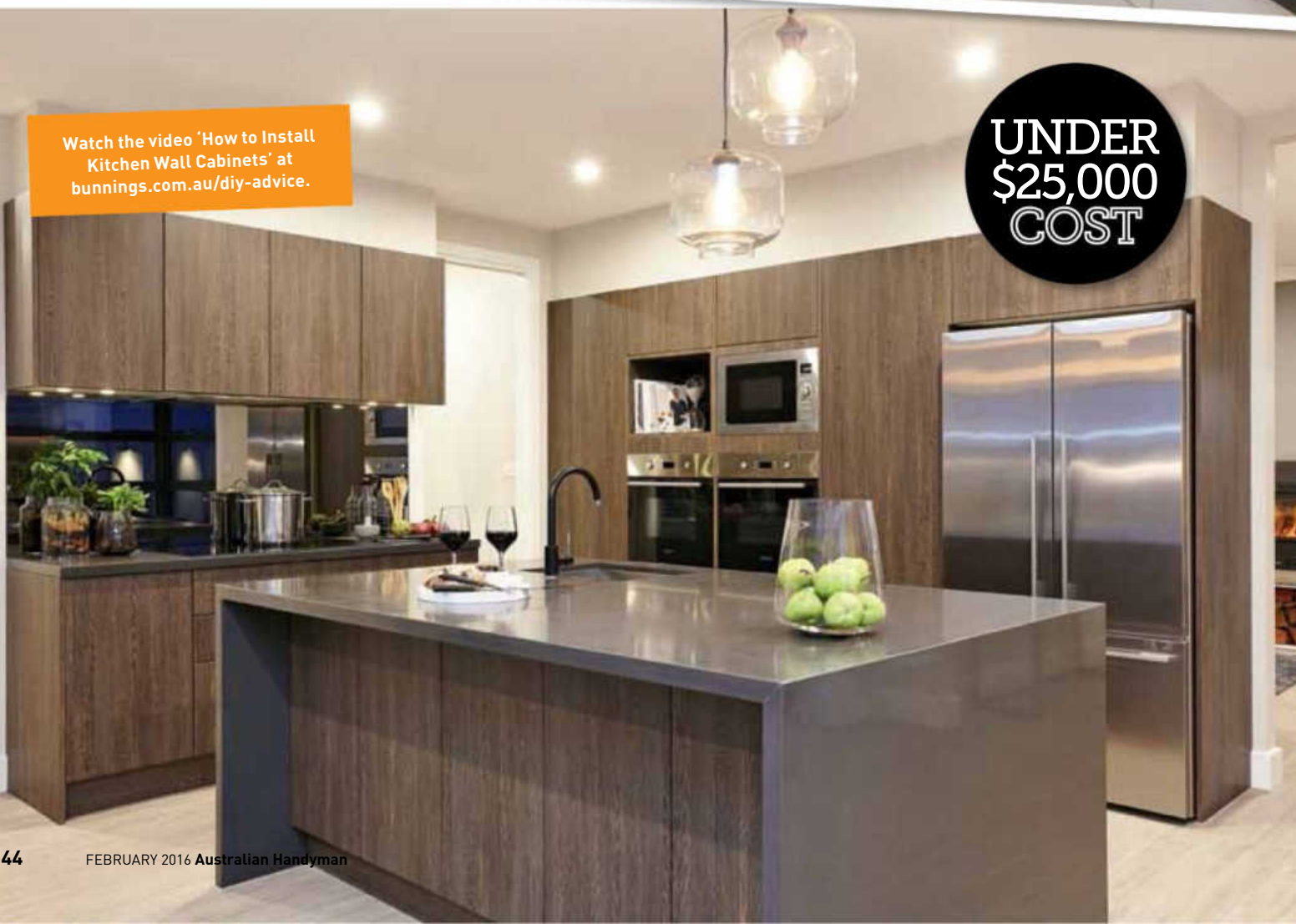
Set the mood with a mix of inbuilt ceiling and pendant lights

A butler's pantry maximises storage and functionality.



Watch the video 'How to Install Kitchen Wall Cabinets' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice.

UNDER
\$25,000
COST





**GET THE
LOOK**



**Bellini 60cm Induction
Slide Touch Cooktop, \$449,
from Bunnings.**



**Formica 8mm Elysee
Laminate Flooring, \$53 for a 2.4m²
carton. formica.com.au**



**Brilliant 25cm 240V 42W Clear
Laurent Pendant Light, \$94.
brilliantlighting.com.au**



**Essential Stone 20mm Creative
Space Liquorice Benchtop, \$620
per sqm. essentialstone.com.au**



IDEAL WINTON VINYL TILES

45 SERIES

45.7cm x 45.7cm
(5 tiles = 1sq. mtr)

7 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Char-Brown Slate



Travertine Stone



Black Marble



Natural Wood Plank



Mocha Parquet



White Marble

30 SERIES

30.5cm x 30.5cm
(10.75 tiles = 1sq. mtr)

3 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Black Diamond



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Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



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www.ideal-diy-floors.com.au
IDEAL helpline 03 9562 8296



DESIGN TIP

Take advantage of all available space by installing floating cabinets and mounting the dryer on the wall.

Watch the video
'How to Design a Laundry' at
bunnings.com.au/diy-advice.

Find it at Bunnings

UPDATE YOUR LAUNDRY

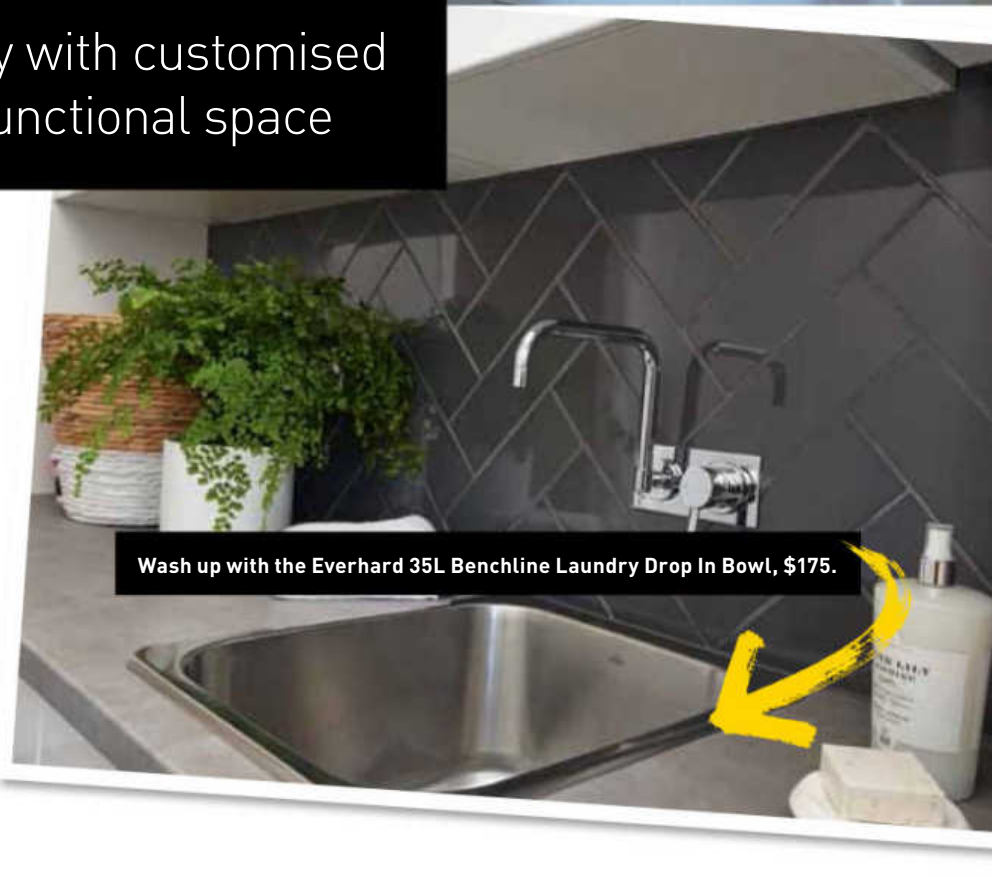
Team sleek cabinetry with customised storage to create a functional space

A laundry needs to be both a tidy workspace and a place to store everything required to maintain a clean home.

The key to creating a designer laundry is maximising storage and concealing unsightly equipment.

Your laundry should be built around the essentials, which include the washing machine, dryer, sink and a benchtop. Cabinets tie the room together and can be customised to suit your storage needs.

TIP Design the room around existing plumbing to minimise expenses.



Wash up with the Everhard 35L Benchline Laundry Drop In Bowl, \$175.



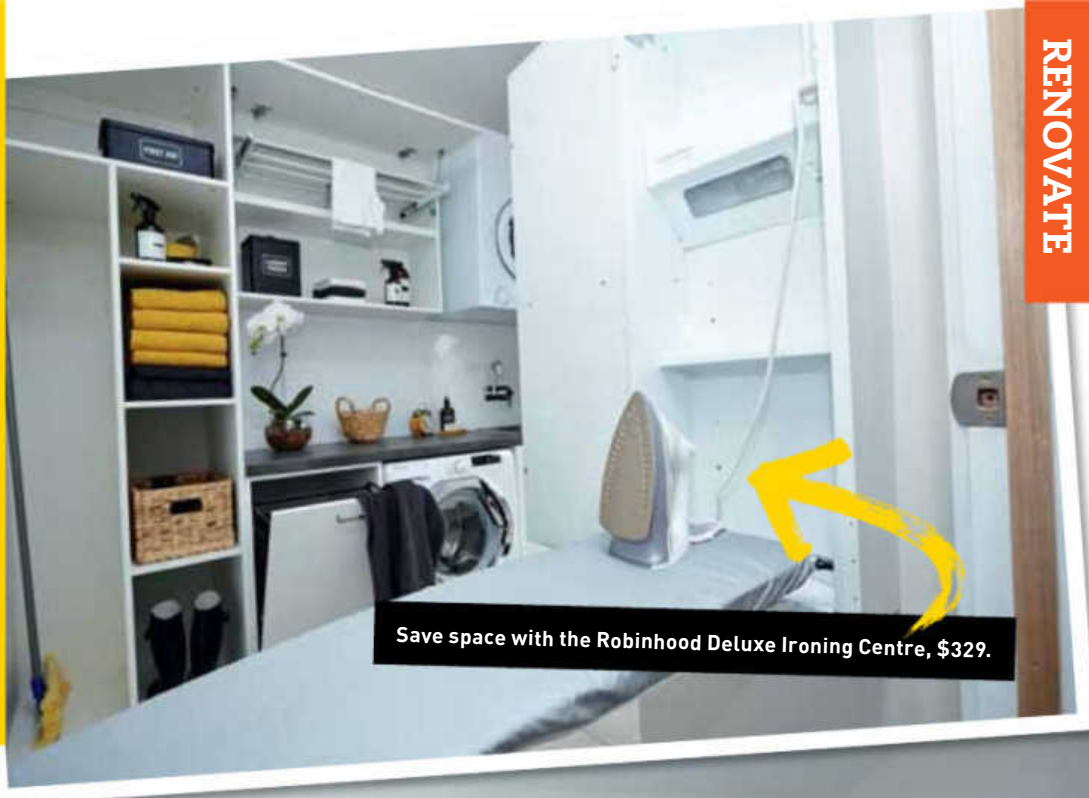
Storage solutions

Laundries are primarily for washing clothes and storage, so allocate enough cabinet space for cleaning products, pegs and hangers.

Built-in hampers keep dirty clothes out of sight, while wall-mounted airers and ironing boards save space.

Customise your cabinets to allow for tall items like mops, brooms and vacuum cleaners.

Select high quality finishes, using cabinet, benchtop and splashback combinations to create a laundry you'll want to show off instead of hide away.



Save space with the Robinhood Deluxe Ironing Centre, \$329.



- 1 Flatpax 600mm Utility Broom Cupboard, \$376.
- 2 Flatpax 900mm Utility Drying Cabinet, \$211.
- 3 Caroma Liano 200mm Wall Mixer, \$418.
- 4 Johnson 300 x 100mm Ceramic Gloss White Wall Tile, \$35.88 for a pack of 40 or \$29.40 per sqm.
- 5 Kaboodle 600mm Taranade Matte Cut To Measure Benchtop, \$157 per linear metre.
- 6 Kaboodle 450mm Linen Chute, \$201.

INSTALL A CLASSIC DECK

Choose and lay decking boards DIY to create the ideal outdoor area for your home

SAFETY TIP

If you decide to lay timber boards, pick a type that is more resistant to rot and termites, like merbau or treated pine.

Whether you're about to build a deck or your old one needs a facelift, you'll have to lay new boards.

When it comes to choosing your decking boards, merbau, spotted gum and treated pine are the most popular options. They are available in large 140mm wide boards, medium 90mm boards and narrow 70mm boards.

Timber is the classic choice, but it will require upkeep. Cleaning and oiling needs to be done annually.

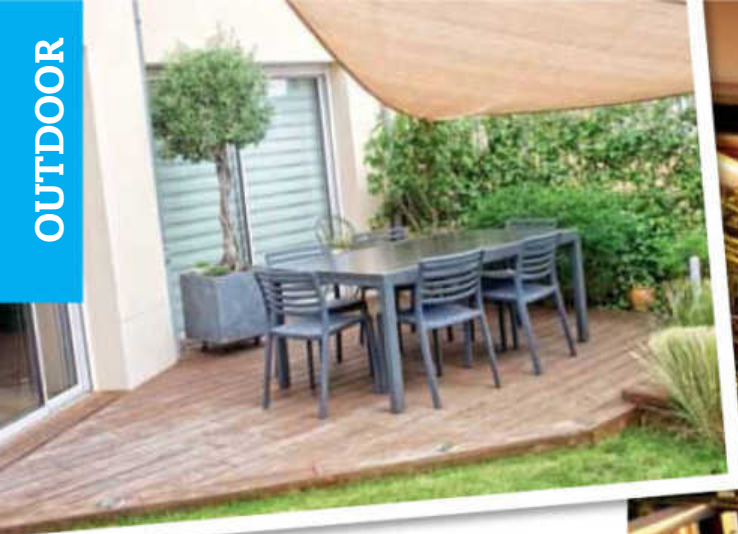
Composite boards provide an alternative to timber that is highly durable, eco-friendly and will require less ongoing maintenance.

Laying the boards can be done DIY without too much fuss. They should be secured to the top of the joists of the decking structure, positioned to run across them, and parallel to the beams.

Make sure the boards are straight and leave 3mm gaps between them, using either spacers or wedges to ensure the gaps are even. ➤



A spacious deck is the ultimate hub for outdoor entertaining in the warm months.



Style and size

There are many different options to choose from, so consider the function of the deck when planning it, and keep it proportional to your house size.

You can attach a deck to a side of the house in the form of a balcony or a verandah, which will usually have one or more sides supported by a ledger that is secured to the house.

A wraparound deck is a type of attached deck that follows part of the perimeter of the house, while freestanding decks are self-supported on posts and bearers.

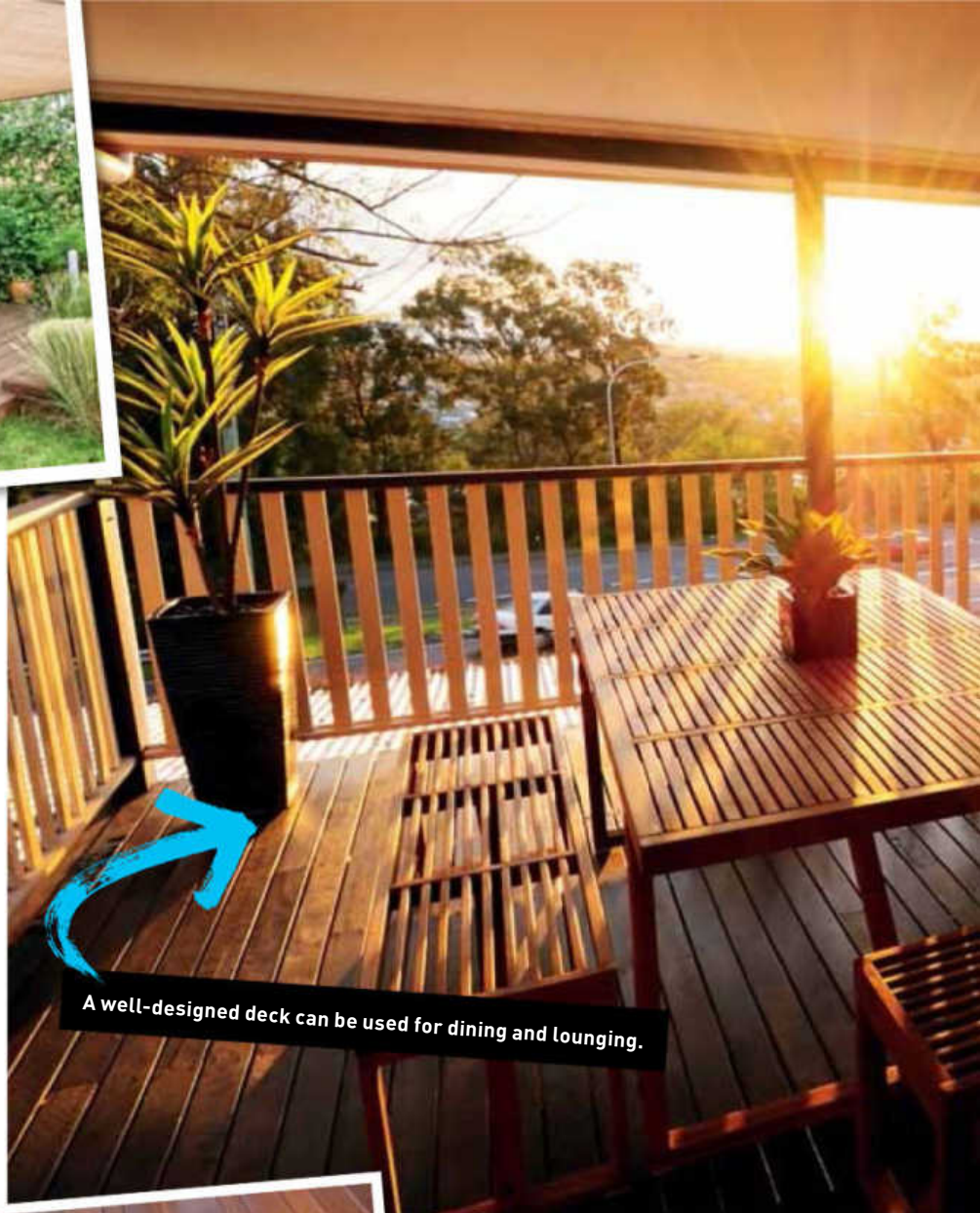
Multi-level decking can be either freestanding or attached, which is ideal for large or sloping sites.

CHOOSE A BOARD

Despite the versatility of composite boards, natural timber is still the most popular choice. The two categories are hardwood or treated pine.



Timber boards vary in density, with hardwoods often tougher to work with



A well-designed deck can be used for dining and lounging.



• **HARDWOODS** such as merbau, spotted gum, blackbutt or forest red are strong, durable choices that withstand the extremes of the Australian climate well.

Prices start at about \$7 per linear metre for 90 x 19mm merbau boards.

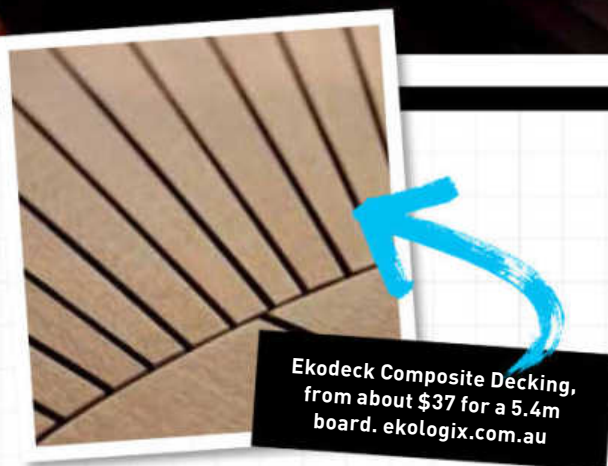


• **ACQ TREATED PINE** features a greenish tinge that weathers to a light grey-brown, and is very cost effective, starting from about \$3 per linear metre.

It is extremely lightweight, making construction and transport easier, and can be stained as desired.

DESIGN TIP

When space is limited, use large-format wide decking boards so there are fewer gaps to distract the eye.



Ekodeck Composite Decking, from about \$37 for a 5.4m board. ekologix.com.au

➤ **COMPOSITE BOARDS** are harder wearing than timber varieties and require less general upkeep.

Planet-friendly Ekodeck looks and installs like timber but is made from plantation bamboo and recycled bottles. It comes in a range of styles and is resistant to rot and mould. ➤



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SikaSeal® Super-200 is a multipurpose, flexible gap sealant combining the benefits of acrylic and silicone technology. It is a truly versatile multipurpose sealant.



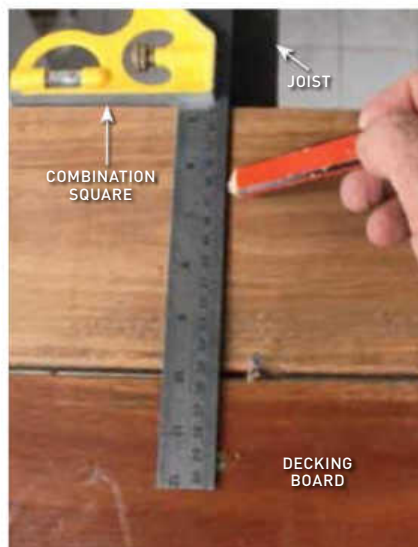
- ▲ Interior & exterior use
- ▲ Mould resistant
- ▲ Excellent adhesion
- ▲ Sandable & paintable
- ▲ Water clean up

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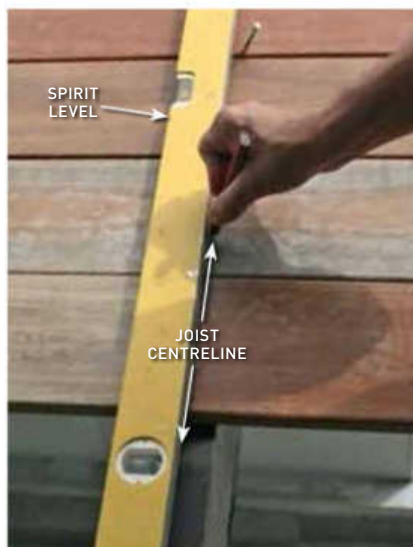


LAY DECKING BOARDS



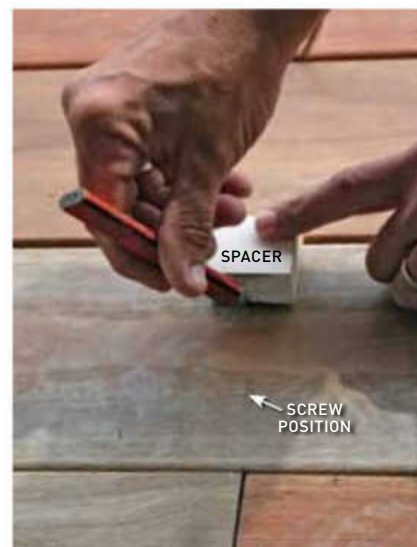
1 Position and cut the boards

Lay five rows at a time with 50mm overhang at each end, overlapping the joints at the nearest joist. Use a combination square to mark a line on the boards for the joist positions, then cut to length with a mitresaw.



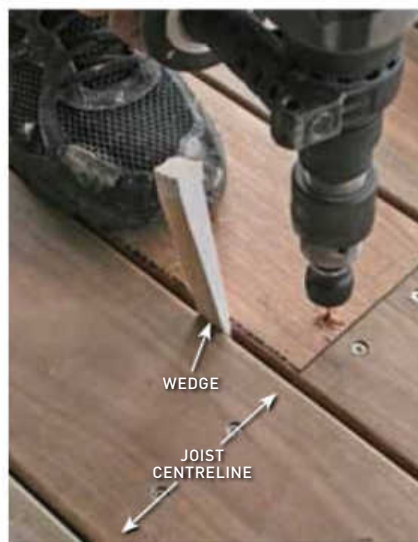
2 Mark the joist centrelines

Check the decking board joints are square and centred over the joists, then position a straightedge or spirit level across the decking boards at the centre of each joist to mark the centrelines.



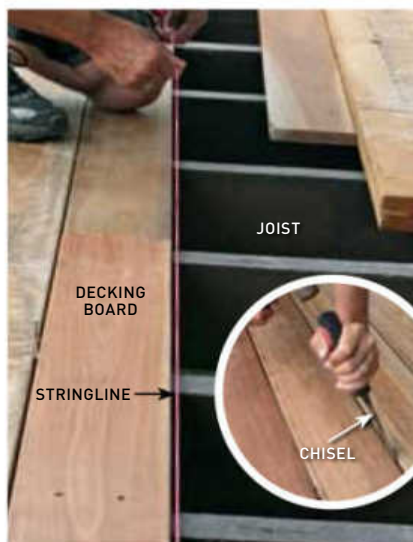
3 Mark the screw positions

Use a 40mm square offcut as a spacer to mark across the lines, showing drilling points. Make narrow wedges 100mm long using a mitresaw, then tap them between the boards at every second joist to keep the gaps even.



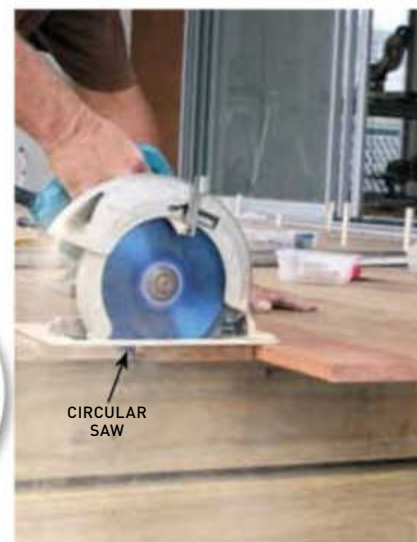
4 Secure the screws

Use a drill and 2mm combination countersink bit to make pilot holes at the marks, drilling only through the board if the joists are treated pine. Use a square drive bit to secure screws, adjusting the torque clutch as needed.



5 Check the alignment

Position a stringline along the complete length of a row, every five rows, to check the boards are straight, adjusting if needed. Use a chisel to prise the gaps slightly further open or closed as required for even spacing.



6 Trim the board ends

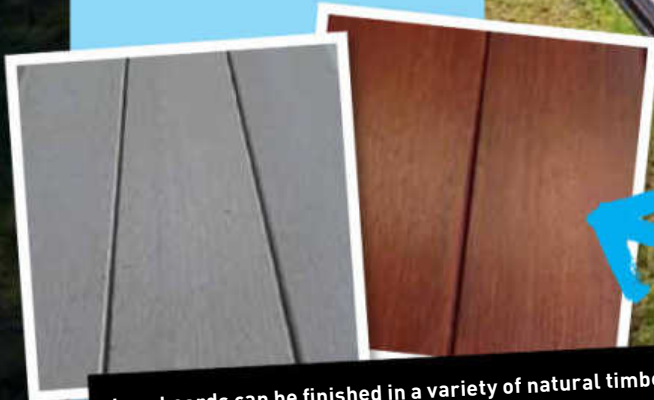
Mark a cut line on the end of the boards, leaving a 20mm overhang. Cut using a circular saw and round over with 120 grit abrasive paper. **TIP** Use a handsaw to cut the last board where the circular saw won't reach.



Deck innovations

This beautiful poolside deck area was created with moisture-resistant Inex Decking Boards from Ubiq, from \$31 for a 2.7m board (ubiq.com.au).

These boards are made from a unique non-combustible composite material that is easy to work and gives the appearance of authentic timber decking.



Inex boards can be finished in a variety of natural timber stains.



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Self fusing silicone tape

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WAXSTIX® TOUCH-UP CRAYONS

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TIMBERMATE carry a wide range of coloured wax sticks to repair scratches on timber surfaces. No beeswax to leave white marks. Keep your timber looking new.



EARL'S MULTIFIL®

Ready to use directly from the container

- Ready to use
- Spreads easily
- Interior/exterior use
- Long shelf life
- Comes in white and a range of popular decking colours



REFINISH A DECK

The summer sun can be hard on timber boards so rejuvenate decking with a good scrub and new stain

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

Stuart



EXPERT SECRETS

A quality stain will withstand cold, wind, heat and rain, and shouldn't fade when exposed to sunlight.

TIDY TIP

When cleaning the deck, treat any areas of algae, mildew or mould with a specialised product using a stiff brush.

This timber deck had lost its sheen after years of withstanding heavy foot traffic and the elements.

It was in need of a deep clean and a few coats of stain to give it an eye-catching new look.

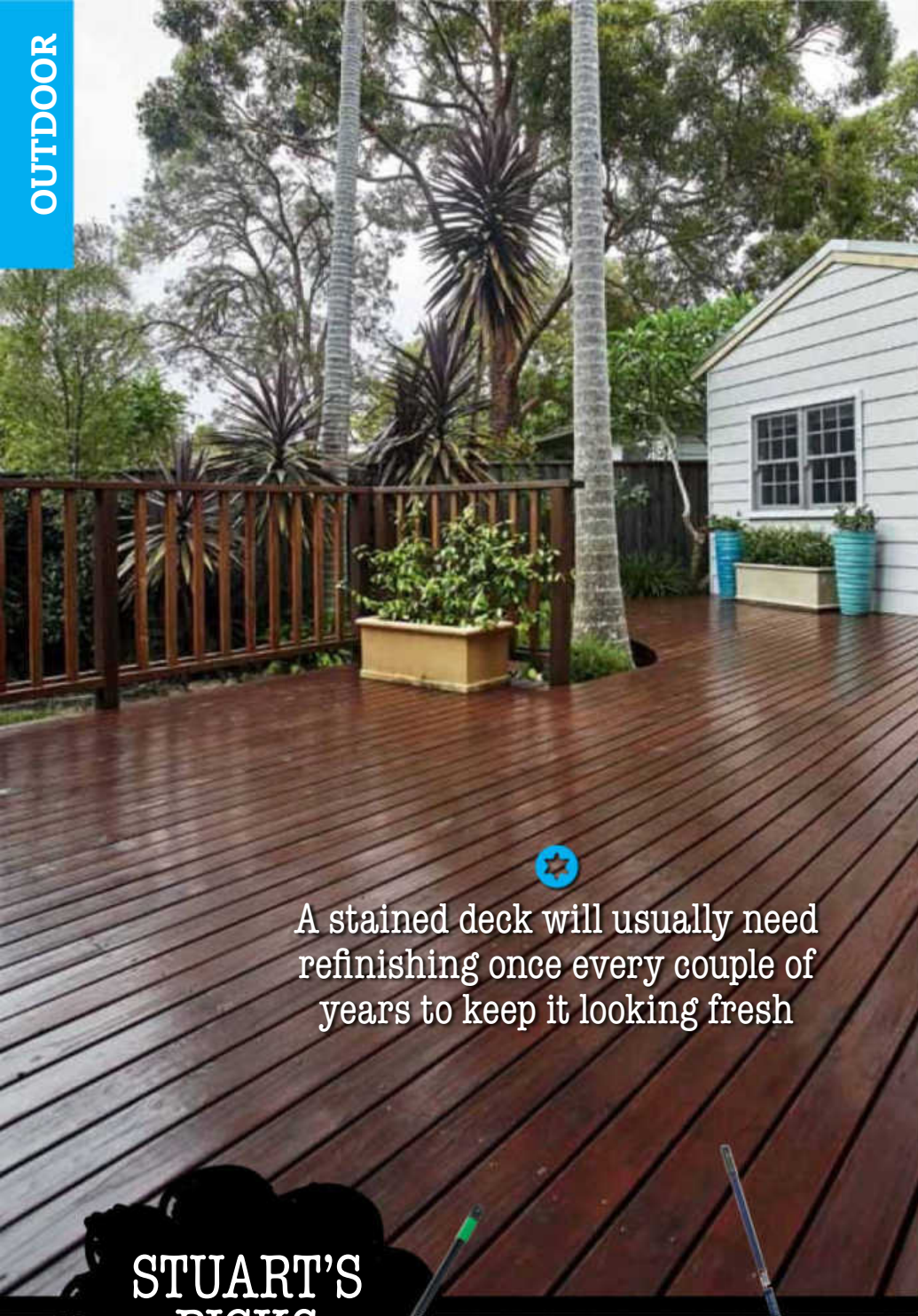
The timber boards were given an initial spray with a pressure washer. While it was still wet, the deck was scrubbed with mild detergent using a long-handled brush for a deeper clean.

To finish, two coats of teak timber decking stain were applied, revitalising the deck and protecting it from future wear and tear. ➤

After

The new teak finish gives the timber boards a rich and glossy look.

Before



A stained deck will usually need refinishing once every couple of years to keep it looking fresh

STUART'S PICKS

Oates Long Handle Deck Scrub Brush, \$15. oates.com.au

Monarch Disposable Deck Tray, \$6. austbrush.com.au

Paint Partner Deck Brush with Pole, \$20, from Bunnings.

Sikkens BLX-Pro Teak, \$380 for 10L. sikkens.com

1 2 3



1 Spray the deck

Rinse the timber boards using a pressure washer to remove any surface dirt and grime. Use a fan spray to clean the deck rather than blasting it, making sure not to be too aggressive with the pressure washer.



2 Scrub the boards

While the deck is still wet, scrub it thoroughly with a mild detergent using a long-handled scrubbing brush, cleaning the boards of any patches of mud or dirt. Rinse off the detergent, then allow the deck to dry.



3 Apply the stain

Finish the boards with two coats of timber stain, using a decking brush to spread the stain evenly all over the deck. Allow at least two hours between coats. Avoid staining the boards in hot and windy conditions.

Every deck deserves one



The Oates Household Deck Scrub is lightweight, yet strong and hardy, making it the perfect tool for cleaning and scrubbing large areas.

Ideal for concrete, outdoor tiles, decking and patios.

Front scraper to remove stubborn built up grime

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DESIGN TIP

Add wow factor to an outdoor room by using boldly patterned rugs and bright scatter cushions.

After

Laying a deck and adding furniture creates a stunning outdoor room.




Before

FROM BARE TO BRILLIANT

Updating surfaces and adding modern features revitalises this patio for summer entertaining

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

 There are two main approaches to renovating: working with what you've got or stripping it all back and starting from scratch. It's not hard to work out which one is going to cost you more.

Always ask yourself what can stay or be recycled. If the bones are strong, just dress them up with smart cosmetic changes. That's what I'm going to do with this unremarkable rear patio.

The reno plan

This outdoor area is fairly large and has lots of potential, but the lack of amenities and dull weathered paving makes it look very uninviting.

The colour scheme is outdated and the garden border is undefined, so the patio appears bare and unfinished.

Rendering the walls and laying decking over the pavers provides instant impact. An outdoor lounge setting extends the living area outdoors, and a tidy container garden completes the transformation. ➤

FREE VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

Cherie Barber is the owner of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to *Handyman* readers in need of renovation inspiration.

Send us a photo and description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a free makeover.

To upload your photos, go to handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover.

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 RENDER THE WALLS

If there's one thing worse than bare bricks, it's blonde bare bricks, so camouflaging the rear facade is essential for a modern look.

I'm going to render and paint it a pale olive, but modern colours like grey or chocolate would work.



Rockcote PM100 Q Render, \$17 for 20kg.
rockcote.com.au

4 CREATE A SCREEN

Tall urns planted with greenery form an elegant screen to the backyard. Their height works much better than the low plants that were there before.

Installing a merbau screen provides extra privacy for the area while complementing the decking timber.



Northcote Pottery 54 x 38cm Precinct Lite Black Pot, \$80.
northcotepottery.com.au

2 LAY TIMBER DECKING

Modular decking from Good Times is a really simple and economical solution for this area.

You don't need to dig holes for posts and it comes with an easily assembled frame and adjustable feet.

It's particularly handy for laying straight over paving or concrete.



Good Times 1113 x 555mm Merbau Modular Decking Panel, \$89.
goodtimesdecking.com

5 INSTALL A FIREPLACE

The hanging hose may be functional, but it doesn't make a great centrepiece.

We'll relocate the reel around the side and install a wall-mounted ethanol burner in its place to create a year-round entertaining area.

And so the deck can be used after the sun has set, we'll install wall lights.

The sails can stay as they provide good shade.



Instinct 018W Bio Fire, \$249.
ethanolheaters.com.au

3 REVAMP THE GARDEN

The existing border plants can be recycled within the garden to make way for a contemporary, uniform container garden.

Black river pebbles along the edge of the deck give definition to the new design and provide a striking contrast to the merbau timber.



Tuscan Path 30-50mm Polished Black Pebbles, \$11 for 15kg.
tuscanpath.com.au

6 ADD FURNITURE

With so many fantastic outdoor settings to choose from these days, you can recreate your lounge room anywhere.

All this space needs is comfortable seating, a rustic coffee table and an all-weather rug.

We'll position it all around the fireplace to create an outdoor room you won't want to leave.



Mimosa Geneve Corner Lounge Setting, \$629, from Bunnings.

INEX>DECKING™



CEMENT COMPOSITE DECKING – 140mm x 19mm x 2.7m



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Give the path an organic feel with roughly cut bricks.

RED-BRICK WALKWAY

Use reclaimed bricks to create a rustic path with a circular design at the start

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

When blogger Melissa Darr moved into her house, the garden at the back was scruffy and underused, and she decided that it needed a DIY upgrade to give it a charming rustic feel.

Melissa and her husband Bevan chose to clear the existing outdoor space and lay a path of reclaimed red bricks, planted on either side with beds of herbs and vegetables.

They sourced the bricks from a nearby demolition site with the permission of the site foreman.

'We also wanted to incorporate a circular brick design at the entrance of the path where we could put a small cafe-style setting,' says Melissa.

'Now it's finished, we love to sit out there once the sun has gone down and enjoy our dinner in the twilight.'

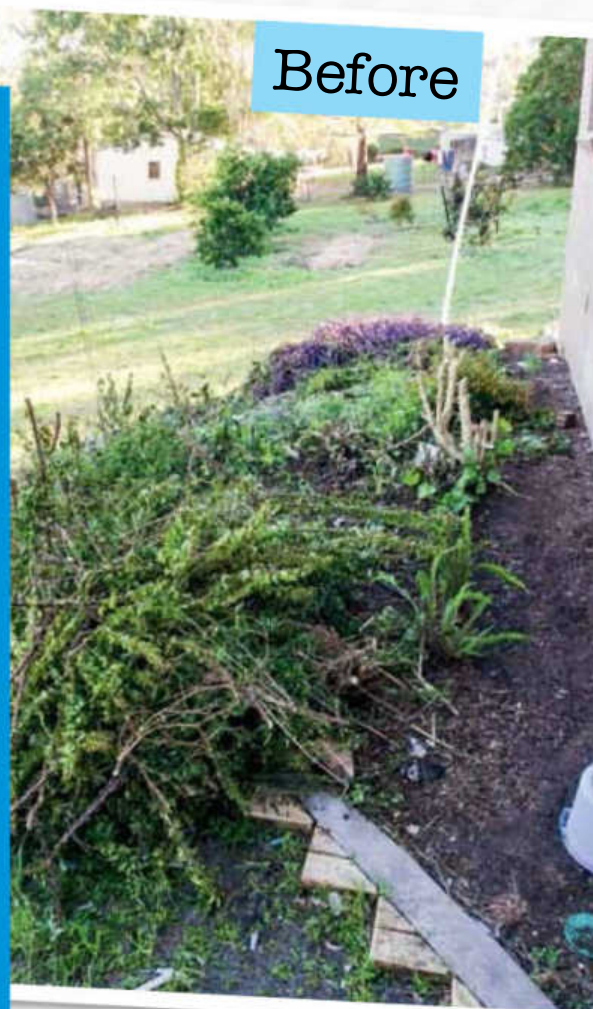
To finish off the space, a bench that was handcrafted from the trunk of an old tree was added. For a focal point, a weathered-look terracotta planter was placed at the end of the path. ➤

Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Plant herbs with striking blooms, such as chamomile and garlic chives, so your herb garden doubles as a flower bed.


Before





DESIGN TIP

To give a terracotta pot a mossy look, brush plain yoghurt on the surface and leave it in a dark spot for several weeks.



Recycle an old tree by turning it into an inviting log bench.



After

A brick patio, cafe-style setting and beds of flowering herbs provide a place to relax.

BUILD THE PATH

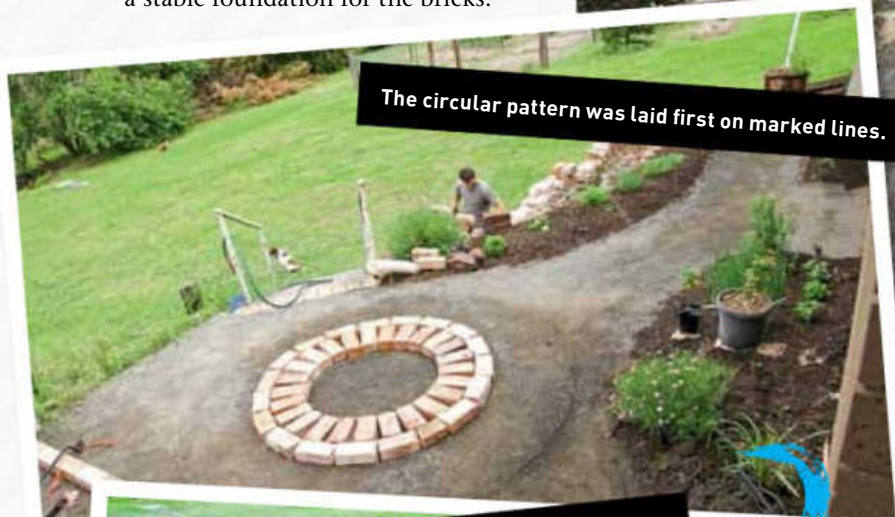
1 Clear the area

The garden at the back of the house had been allowed to grow wild by the previous owner, so the first job was to clear it completely of hard roots and shrubs.

Before Melissa and Bevan could start laying the pathway, they had to manually strip the reclaimed bricks of mortar using a hammer and bolster.

'This was a bit of a painful process, as we had about 400 bricks, but it was well worth it,' says Melissa.

A bed of crusher dust was spread over the area to be paved to provide a stable foundation for the bricks.



2 Lay the bricks

Melissa had her sights set on creating a decorative circular pattern at the start of the new path.

To mark out the design, a stake was pegged where the centre of the circle would be, with a length of string attached. A sharp object was tied to the string and the circle was drawn by winding the string around the stake.

Bevan began by laying the inner circle of bricks on the marked lines, working outwards from the centre.

The centre of the circle was filled in with roughly cut bricks, then the remainder of the path was laid.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com



3 Fill the gaps

The crevices in the path were filled and set with sand.

Sand was then laid over the top of the bricks and brushed back and forth with a large-bristled broom to fill in the gaps between the bricks.

After the excess sand was carefully brushed off the surface, the whole path was given a light spray with a hose to wet the sand, compacting it.

Sand and water were used to set the bricks in position.

PLANT IT UP

A length of flexible drainage pipe was installed around the garden beds before the bricks were laid to irrigate the plants with greywater from the washing machine.

Melissa then planted basil, mustard greens, shallots, thyme, oregano, marjoram, chamomile, garlic chives, sage, tarragon, rosemary, parsley, mint, lettuces and spring onions.

'Our herbs have really taken off now that the warmer weather has started to hit,' she says.

Rosemary

Chamomile

Tarragon

Crommelin

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PAVE A PATIO

Create a stunning entertaining area in your backyard using stone pavers

Laying paving is an easy way to transform a bare backyard into a fantastic outdoor living area.

With pavers, you can create a convenient and low-maintenance patio that can be used for alfresco dining, barbecues or just relaxing.

Natural bluestone pavers are cost effective, easy to lay and hard-wearing.

Wet-laying pavers onto a mortar base ensures they'll stay in place for years to come, making this method ideal for areas with a lot of foot traffic.

Before laying paving, install timber formwork, spread 100mm of roadbase over the area and compact it with a plate compactor. You can hire one for about \$60 an hour.

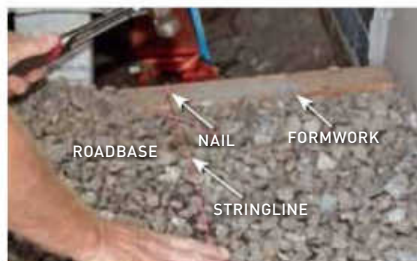


Turn an unused area into an outdoor room by laying pavers next to the house

Watch the video 'How to Prepare and Lay a Base for Pavers' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

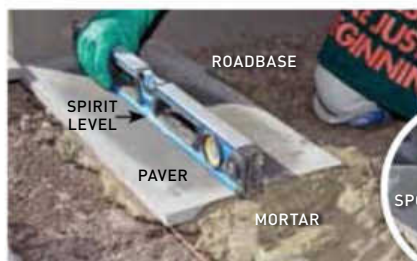
What you need

- Bluestone pavers
- Angle grinder, diamond blade
- Sawhorse and clamps
- Spirit level
- Straightedge
- Stringline, hammer and nails
- Sand and cement mix
- Wheelbarrow and shovel
- Trowel
- Bucket and sponge
- Rubber mallet
- Tape measure
- Gloves and knee pads



1 Run a stringline

Drive a nail into the formwork one paver width from the wall. Measure the distance between the nail and the wall, then drive another nail into the formwork on the opposite side of the area the same distance from the wall. Tie a stringline between the two nails.



2 Lay the first paver

Spread a 30mm layer of mortar over the roadbase where the first paver will be laid, position the paver on top and tap into place with a rubber mallet, aligning it with the stringline. Check for level across the length of the paver and diagonally using a spirit level.



3 Continue laying pavers

Spread a 30mm layer of mortar next to the first paver and position the second paver on top, leaving 5mm between the pavers. Continue laying across the area flush with the stringline, checking for level. Use a damp sponge to wipe off excess mortar as each paver is laid.

DESIGN TIP

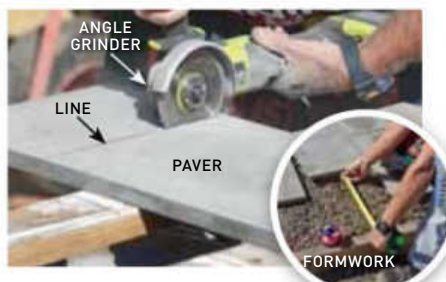
The stretcher bond pattern is ideal for long rectangular pavers and helps make an area appear larger.

Large-format natural stone pavers make a patio feel spacious and luxurious.



4 Start the second row

To create a stretcher bond pattern, mark the middle of a paver and lay it in the next row so the mark aligns with the gap between the first and second pavers. Leave 5mm between the first and second rows. Use a straightedge to check that each row is straight.



5 Cut the end pavers

To fit pavers at the ends of each row, measure the distance between the last full paver and the formwork. Deduct 5mm from this figure and mark the length onto a paver. Use an angle grinder with a diamond blade to cut the paver along the mark.



6 Lay the cut pavers

Position the end pavers with the cut facing the adjacent paver and the uncut edge facing the end of the row. Continue cutting and laying pavers until the area is covered. Let the mortar set for at least 24 hours before walking on the pavers.

POWER CLEAN PAVING

Turn the tricky task of cleaning pavers into a pleasure with a pressure washer

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

ADAM'S PICKS

With time and wet weather, pavers can start to look a little worse for wear.

But you don't have to spend hours on your hands and knees with a scrubbing brush. You can have them looking near-new in no time using a couple of power tools.

In summer, always check water restrictions in your area and connect your pressure washer to a rainwater tank if you have one.

Before



After

Cleaned and hosed with a pressure washer, the pavers are restored to their original condition.



30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner Concentrate, \$20 for 5L, from Bunnings.

Silvan Selecta Chapin 8L Pro XP Series Hand Sprayer, \$89. silvan.com.au



Karcher K2.300 1600psi High Pressure Cleaner, \$149. karcher.com.au

Victa V Force+ 40V Lithium Blower and Vacuum, \$429. victa.com/au



1 Clear the area

Remove all the furniture, pots and any other items that are standing on the paved area to be cleaned. Thoroughly clear the space of any loose material using either a blower or a broom and a rake.



2 Prepare the cleaner

Mix an outdoor cleaner with water in a hand sprayer container, following the manufacturer's directions and safety precautions. Avoid contact with skin, clothing and fabrics, as many products have a bleaching action.

Bring a new look to old brick paving with minimal time and effort.



Watch more outdoor maintenance videos
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HAND
SPRAYER

PAVED
AREA

3 Apply the cleaner

Apply the prepared cleaner over the entire paved area to be cleaned, making sure all surfaces are well wetted with the solution.

TIP On hot or sunny days, or for large spaces, only treat a section at a time.



PRESSURE
WASHER

PAVED
AREA

4 Spray the paving

Working towards the area where water will run off, commence spraying with a high pressure washer, using a broom to clear the area as you go if needed. A second going-over may be required to fully remove dislodged material.

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COOL & SHADY

Smart ways to keep your place fresh and comfortable in hot, sunny weather

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

At the hottest time of the year, there's no denying that there are many parts of our massive, wide land that experience intense and oppressive heat.

Unless you're lucky enough to be able to while away the summers in a cottage by the beach, the chances are you spend the season looking for ways to keep your home cool.

You can take the step of switching on the air conditioning, of course, but really, on a beautiful summer's day, who wants to close the house up just to stay that little bit cooler?

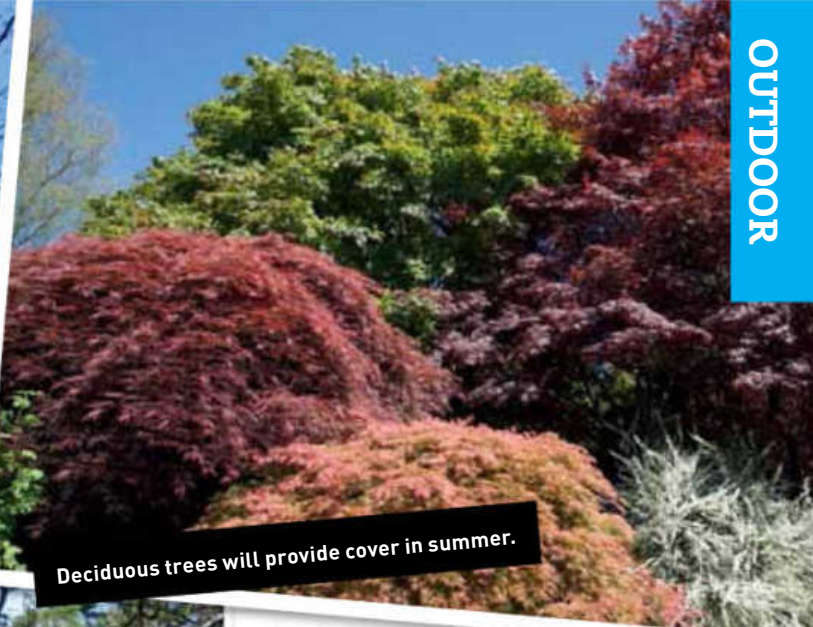
There are, in fact, many alternative ways you can make your home more comfortable over summer.

Here are a few ideas to help you stay cool while the temperature rises.



SAFETY TIP

Use plants and trees with non-invasive root systems if planting near the house, to protect the foundations.



Deciduous trees will provide cover in summer.




Create shade

Trees, large hedges and screening plants can do a great job of keeping paved areas and the walls of your home cool. A natural bamboo screen will also have the same effect.

Before planting trees or hedges, consider which sides of your home receive the most sun and plant accordingly. Position on the edges of paved surfaces so they will be shaded from the sun.

You can also train vines up the walls of your home and around windows which will help to provide additional cooling. ➤



Fast-growing bamboo is an ideal shade maker.

COOL AND GREEN

On a 40° day, the surface temperature of grass is likely to be about 45°. In contrast, dark-coloured concrete areas can reach temperatures of over 70°.

Concrete and paved surfaces will continue to radiate heat into the night even as the air cools down, whereas lawn areas cool off quickly.

Shading concrete from direct sun with a tree or hedge can reduce the surface temperature by up to 25°.



To reduce heat in the yard, opt for a large lawn rather than expanses of concrete with Sir Walter Buffalo Turf, about \$9 for a 1sqm roll (sirwalter.com.au).



Naturally bushy, the Time Savers Westringia Aussie Box, \$63, grows up to about 950mm high and provides lots of low shade (bunnings.com.au).



Keep harsh sunlight from heating up the exterior walls of your home with the Eden 1.8 x 3m Natural Bamboo Fence Screen, \$50 (edenbrand.com).

WINDOW DRESSING



The handy little Pillar Products Window Film Installation Kit, \$10, contains all you need to tint your windows DIY (bunnings.com.au).

One of the biggest sources of heat build-up inside the home is radiant heat entering through the windows.

Curtains or blinds on the inside may help with UV penetration, but they won't always stop the heat.

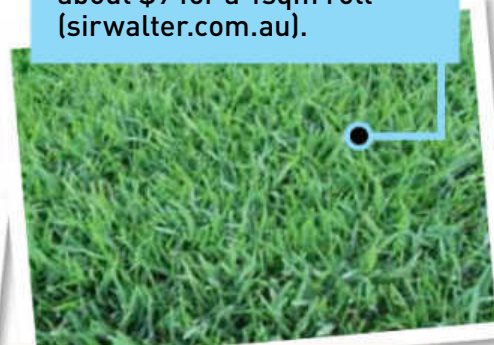
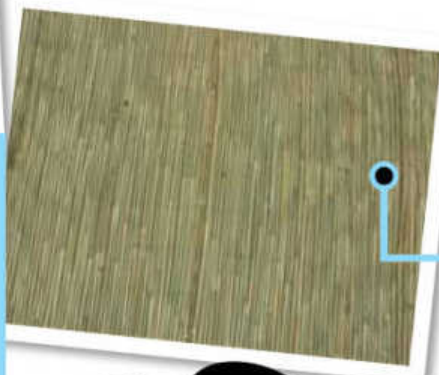
The trick is to prevent the sunlight from transferring that heat outside to heat inside your home. There are a number of easy ways to do this. ➤



Featuring a double-layered pleat design, the attractive Velux Honeycomb Blind, from \$175, will block out heat and light while leaving a soft glow (velux.com.au).



Block up to 98% of UV rays and reduce infrared light and heat in your home with Tinted Glare Control Window Film from Pillar Products, \$31 for a 0.9 x 2m roll.



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BUILT-IN CHILL

If designing a new home, talk with your architect or builder at the early stages about passive cooling and heating.

High-grade insulation in ceilings, floors and walls is relatively inexpensive at build stage. It creates a huge cost saving in the long run and makes your home more comfortable year-round.

Painting the roof in a light colour alone can save you nearly 40% in energy use during the summer.

If you do decide to go for a dark roof, then consider adding a double layer of sarking to cut cooling costs.

Also select light concrete or paving colours to reduce the heat outside.

Save energy by painting the roof in a light colour.



White Knight Ultra Pave Heavy Duty Formula Paving & Concrete Paint, \$32 for 1L, is an ideal finish for paths, patios and driveways (whiteknightpaints.com.au).



ThermalBrane Insulation from Ametalin, \$271 for a 6.5 x 1350mm x 22.25m roll, can be installed inside walls or used as lining for sheds (ametalin.com).



The eco-friendly EarthWool from Knauf Insulation, \$30 for a 90 x 430mm x 19m roll, keeps things cool in summer and warm in winter (knaufinsulation.com.au).



Installation tips

Insulation is classed by an 'R' value, and the higher the number, the better the insulation quality.

It's fairly straightforward to install ceiling insulation DIY. Here's how to make the task simple and safe.

➤ **CHECK** the recommended 'R' value and, for better results, exceed it.

➤ **ENSURE** the insulation is suitable for your situation, considering things like space between ceiling joists.

➤ **AVOID** installing ceiling insulation on hot days or in the middle of the day.

➤ **WEAR** the safety gear that's suggested on the pack. This will generally include gloves, long pants and long sleeves, safety goggles and a suitable dust mask.

➤ **TREAD** carefully when in the roof cavity. Only step on bearers or joists.

➤ **KEEP** insulation clear of light fittings, especially halogen fittings and exhaust fans, rangehood outlets and any other appliances.

➤ **ASK** an electrician if it is safe to install insulation that contains reflective foil layers over cables. And never staple this type of insulation.

AIR FRESHENER

A build-up of hot air in a roof space or rooms can cause your home to retain the heat long after the sun has set.

Remove this hot air and keep air circulating to make a huge difference to the internal temperature of your home. It can be as simple as installing a couple of well-positioned vents and ceiling fans. ➤



With an efficient DC motor, the Mercator Lily DC Ceiling Fan, from \$349, will save you up to 80% in energy use compared to a fan with an AC motor (mercator.com.au).



When used in conjunction with a roof turbine, the CSR Edmonds 150mm Round Ceiling Vent, \$45, will help keep a room comfortably cool (edmonds.com.au).



Driven by wind power, the CSR Edmonds 250mm Night Sky SupaVent Turbine Ventilator, \$138, also known as a whirly bird, will extract the heat from roof cavities.



The Squareline Plus range of kitchen sinks by Everhard comprises of three configurations that are ideally proportioned to suit standard modular kitchen cupboards as well as having a sharp, modern look to complement the most sophisticated custom-made kitchen.


Each sink in the range has the ability to be top mounted or undermounted, boasts innovative easy-clean features and have functional accessories to suit.

A successful kitchen sink blends practicality with aesthetics and fulfils the needs of the user. That's Squareline Plus by Everhard.



SHADE SOLUTIONS

A little bit of shade goes a long way in cooling things down. Modern home design trends seem to call for houses to be built without eaves, and the big, airy verandah out the front is clearly a thing of the past.

But you can still add useful shade, such as awnings, to the exterior of your home to help cool the interior. 

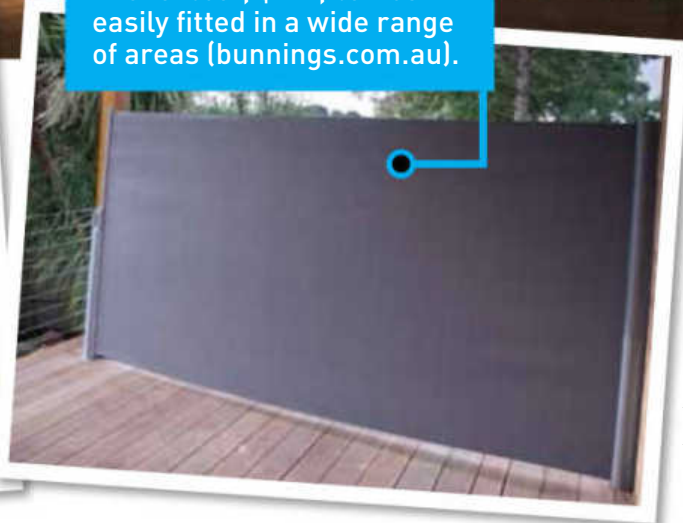
Shade helps to cool air a little before it enters the home



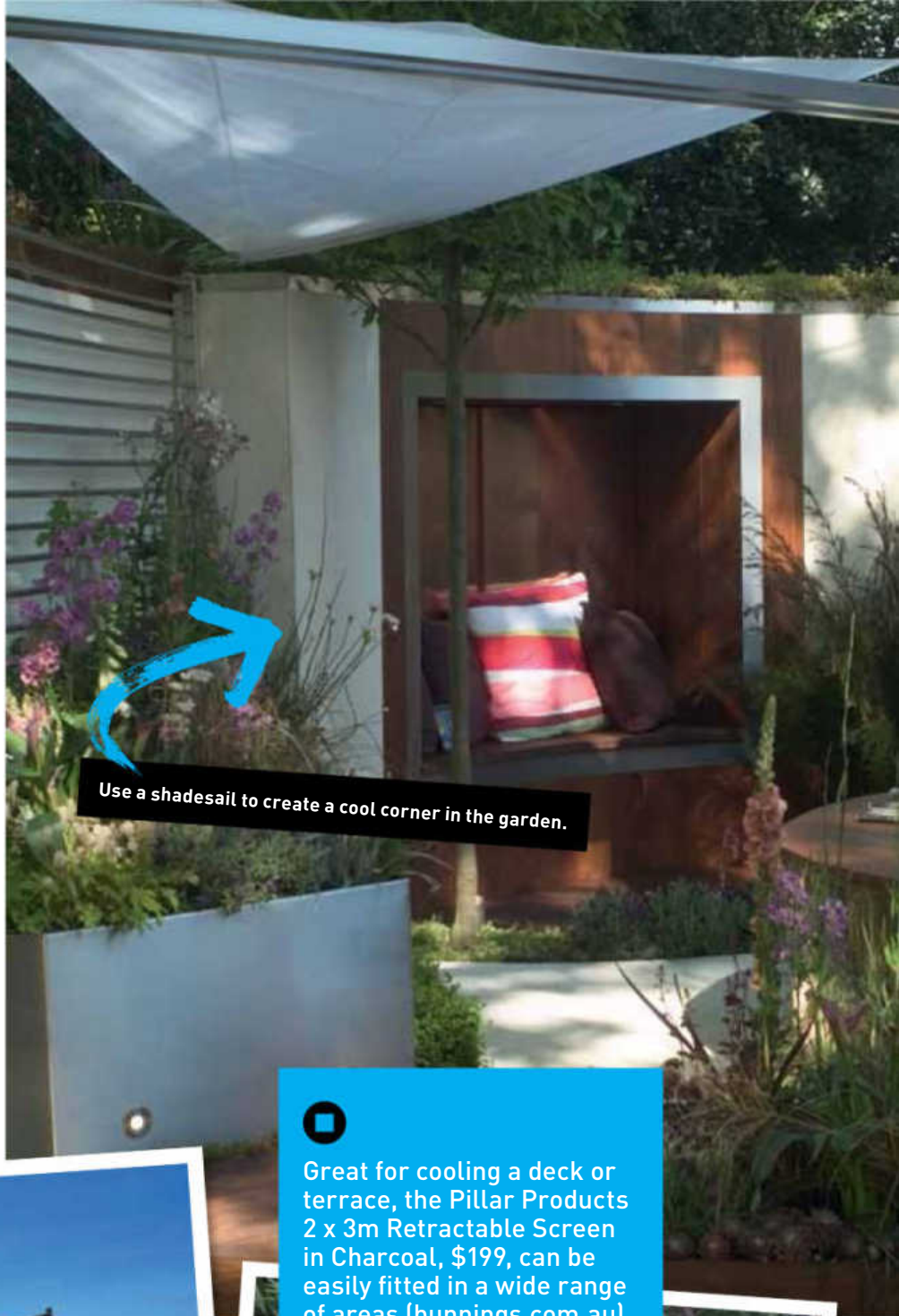
An ideal solution to create shade in a particular spot, the 4 x 4m Coolaroo Butterfly Square Gazebo, \$599, is easy to assemble and gives 100% cover factor (coolaroo.com).



Great for cooling a deck or terrace, the Pillar Products 2 x 3m Retractable Screen in Charcoal, \$199, can be easily fitted in a wide range of areas (bunnings.com.au).



Use a shadesail to create a cool corner in the garden.





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Up to 30% of heat loss or gain is through an un-insulated ceiling.
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that you've helped stop your cooling costs going through the roof.

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WHAT'S NEW

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SAFETY TIP

Add a stylish steel gate to a walkway that opens onto a public path to provide a design feature and extra security.

GREAT GATES

Finish off the fence with an 853 x 900mm The Grange Mosman Low Gate, \$65.

Build a beautiful entrance with an 853 x 1830mm The Grange Mosman High Gate, \$119.

Add access to your garden with an 855 x 945mm The Grange Cheltenham Low Gate, \$99.

Pen pets in with a 1200 x 1800mm Rapid Mesh Modular Pet Panel, \$75, and matching Modular Pet Gate, \$115.

Provide security with an 855 x 1880mm The Grange Cheltenham High Gate, \$199.

Tuck away tools inside the 72" Ultimate Ten-drawer and Central Cabinet Tool Trolley, \$999.

HOME
UPGRADES

Remove up to 99% of contaminants with the Stefani Reverse Osmosis Water Filtration System, \$550.

Update an old kitchen with Kaboodle European Timber Benchtops, from \$310.



Give every tap clean water with the Stefani Whole of House Water Filtration System, \$209.



Treat your tradie to an Electrician's Tool Pouch, \$19.98, to attach to a belt.

Refresh old finishes with British Paints White Paint & Prime Exterior, \$60.90 for 4L.



Fix up furniture with Cabot's Touch Up Pens, \$8.50 each, in five colours and two sheens.

TOP
TOOLS

Smooth it out with the Kincrome Air 16-piece Sander Kit, \$169.



Remove rust with a Kincrome Air Needle Scaler Accessory, \$75.



Carve it out with the Kincrome Air Hammer Chisel Kit, \$179.

Do it yourself with the Kincrome Professional Tool Range:

- 1 115° Angle Die Grinder, \$129.
- 2 1/2" Drive Air Drill, \$139.
- 3 1/2" Drive 81NM Air Ratchet, \$134.
- 4 1/2" Drive Air Stubby Impact Gun, \$278.
- 5 1/2" Drive Heavy Duty Air Impact Wrench, \$369.
- 6 1/2" Drive 745NM Air Mini Impact Gun, \$239.
- 7 Air Cut-off Tool, \$69.
- 8 Air Grinder, \$169.

Lubricate tools and joints with the Kincrome Air Grease Gun, \$128.



Find it at Bunnings

Summer essentials

Gear up to give your place some much-needed TLC with these top garden and DIY products



ATTACH ARCHITRAVES with Selleys Ezi Press Liquid Nails Fast, \$7.98 for 130g, without the need for a caulking gun.



BRUSH ON new formula Dulux Wash & Wear Low Sheen Paint, \$82.90 for 6L, with 101 Barrier Technology.



PAINT AND PROTECT your home with British Paints Low Sheen White 4 Seasons, 59.90 for 6L.



TREAT THE DECK to a fresh finish with Cabot's Natural and Merbau Aquadeck, \$69.90 for 4L.



BEAT BACK MOULD by applying Taubmans Easy Coat Anti-bacterial, \$54.90 for 6L, to your walls.



NOURISH 'N' NURTURE with Yates Thrive All Purpose Fast Acting Fertiliser + Trace Elements, \$9.98 for 2L.



GROW FRESH VEG in The Organic Garden Co. 200 x 100 x 41cm Paperbark Raised Garden Bed, \$99.



STEP OUT of the sweltering sun and take a shady break under a Coolaroo Cabana Gazebo, \$149.



KEEP PLANTS hydrated and healthy on hot summer days with the Pope Small Garden Hose Reel, \$39.98.



WANDER 'N' WATER the garden using a Gardena Hose Trolley Set, \$69.



BLAST OFF dirt and grime with a Gerni Titan 1.4kW Pressure Washer, \$299.



MOW THE GRASS with a Victa Classic 18" Cut & Catch Lawnmower, \$399.



TIDY THE YARD with the Ozito 18V Power Xchange Line Trimmer Combo, \$149.



KEEP COOL and comfortable inside all summer long with Knauf Insulation Earth Wool, from \$63.



SECURE SCREWS with the Trojan 26-piece Screwdriver Set, \$29.98, in a clever organised carry case.



GRIP IT with the Irwin Five-piece Plier Set, \$49.98, featuring a plier for every job and handy roll pouch for storage.



WORK FOR HOURS with the Bosch 18V Drill Driver Kit, \$199, featuring two cordless drills, a light and tool bag.



MAKE DIY EASY with the Ryobi One+ Drill Driver Kit, \$199, featuring a drill, two batteries and a charger.



FIX IT FAST with the Dewalt 18V Li-ion Combo Kit, \$229, featuring a drill, driver, two batteries and charger.



TIDY UP twigs and leaves around the yard with the cordless Ryobi One+ 18V 5.0Ah Blower Kit, \$199.



POWER X CHANGE

POWER UP!



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ozito

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WARRANTY

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BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au



80s CREATS

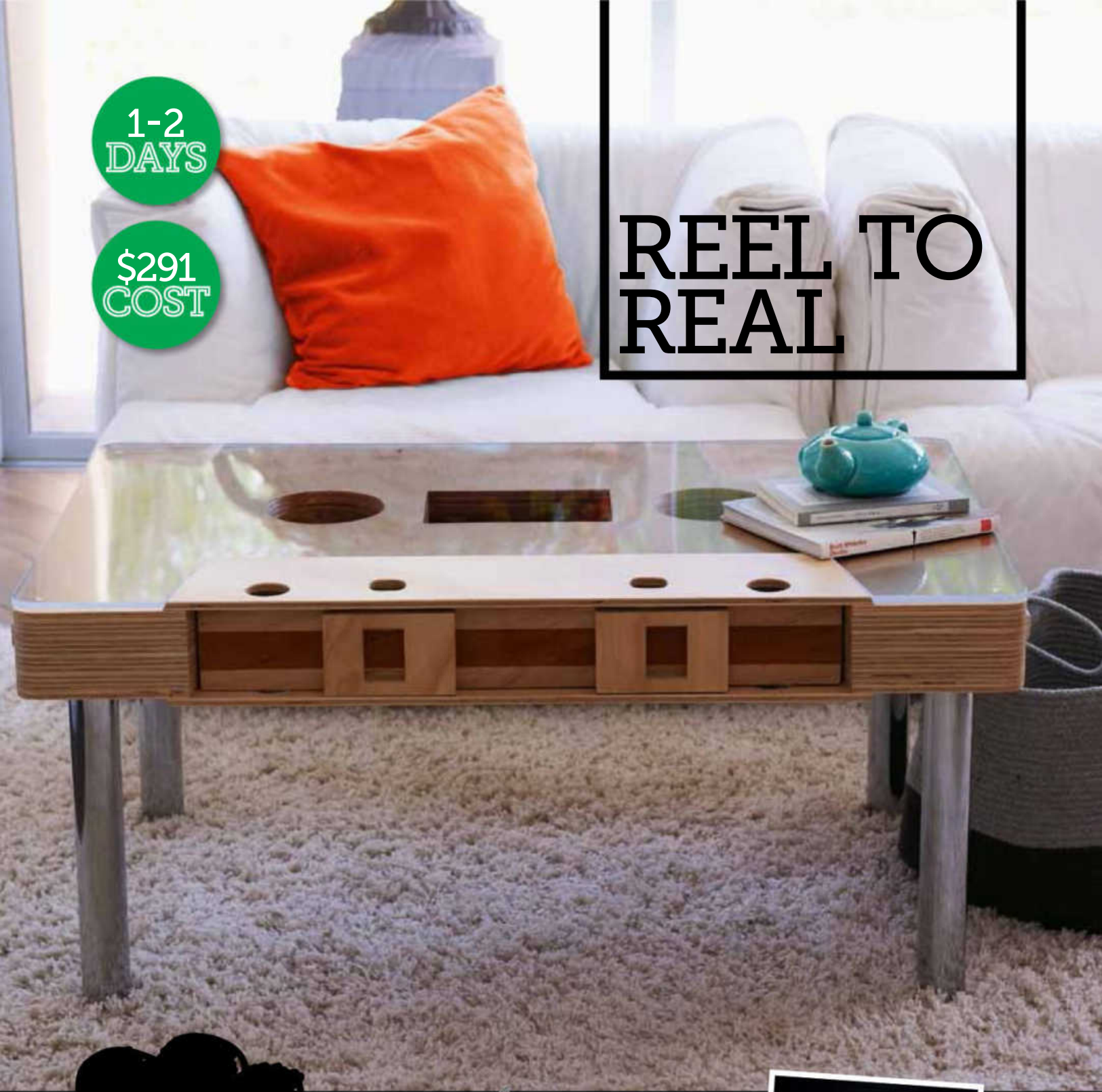
Embrace the taste for retro furniture by creating three decade-defining pieces from scratch

PROJECTS GUN ARVIDSSON PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

1-2
DAYS

\$291
COST

REEL TO REAL



GUN'S PICKS



Cabot's Satin Stain & Varnish
in Jarrah, \$19 for 250ml.
cabots.com.au



Leggz 700 x 50mm Chrome
Furniture Legs, \$14 each.
leggz.com.au



Acrylic Sheet,
1220 x 610 x 6mm, \$65.
acrylicsonline.com.au

TOOLS

JIGSAW, CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL, BELT SANDER



Long before the iPod, portable music was made possible by the Compact Cassette.

The proportions of this tribute table are almost identical to those of the original Philips cassette tape and it even has spools. It features a drawer for storage and a 6mm acrylic top.

It's built from overlapping layers of plywood that are initially secured with screws. The central layer is made from two pieces joined edge-to-edge, making it easier to drill into the spools.

TIP To cut out the enclosed shapes with a jigsaw, drill a 10mm starter hole. ➤

Materials

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Structural plywood | \$113 |
| Clear acrylic | \$65 |
| Countersunk timber screws | \$7 |
| Pine dowel | \$2 |
| Drawer runners | \$9 |
| Clear surface savers | \$4 |
| Chrome legs | \$56 |
| Jarraah varnish stain | \$19 |
| Clear polyurethane | \$16 |
| TOTAL | \$291 |

Install the drawer

The drawer runs on self-closing 300mm runners, which will extend about 50mm behind the drawer, allowing it to slide out almost fully.

Secure the runners to the drawer sides using the supplied screws, then mark the position of

the table runners and attach with screws before securing the core table components with adhesive.

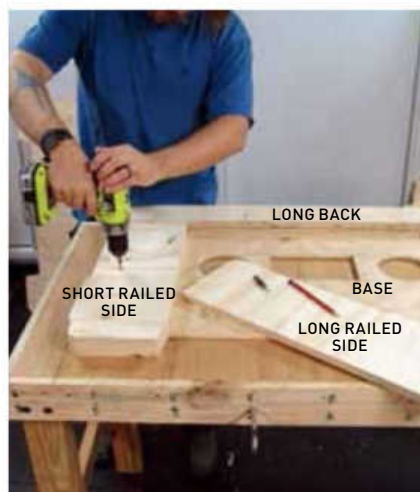
Finish the drawer by applying varnish stain to the central strip at the front, giving the look of magnetic tape. Repeat this with the tape plates in the core of the table.

DIY TIP

To achieve a straight cut when shortening the legs, wrap sandpaper around each of them and mark along the top of it.

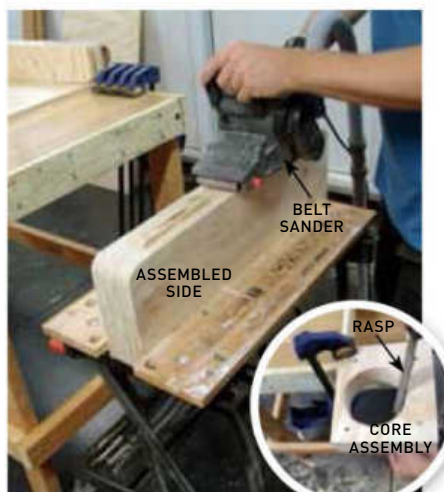


MAKE THE TABLE



1 Assemble the pieces

Cut the pieces with a circular saw and number them, round the corners and cut the details with a jigsaw. Put the first and second layer on the base panel, checking the outer edges are flush, then secure with screws. Repeat for the third and fourth layers. Don't join areas where the back and sides overlap.



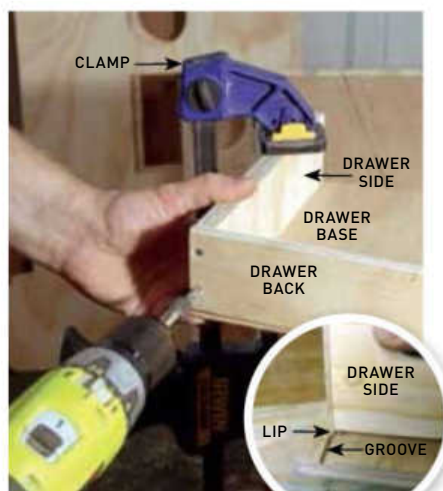
2 Sand the components

Ease the three main sections apart, then clamp each of them in turn and sand the outside smooth using a belt sander. Assemble the core stack, omitting the central spool layer, then use a rasp and 80 then 120 grit paper to shape the opening of each spool into a smooth curve.



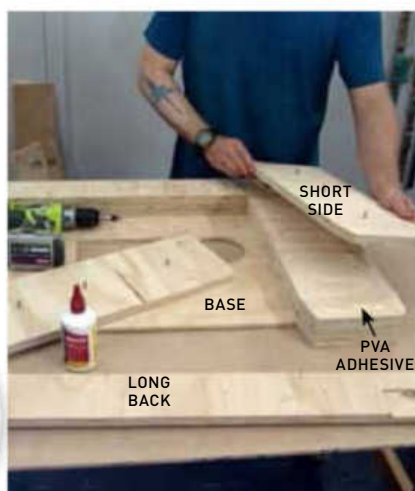
3 Complete the spools

Use a 12mm spade bit to drill 10mm deep holes for the spool teeth, then apply PVA adhesive and tap in the dowels. Apply limewash, then secure the spool layer between the other layers of the core. Glue the tape plates in position. Sand flush with the spool layer and apply varnish stain.



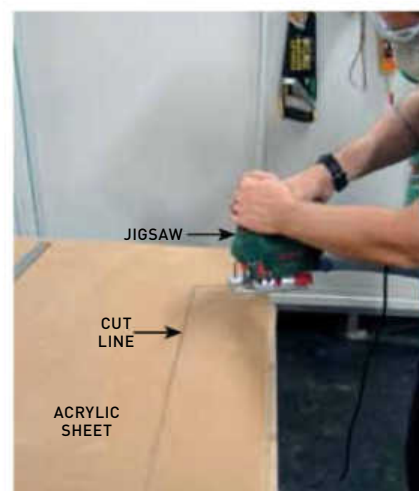
4 Make the drawer

Use a circular saw to cut a 3 x 3mm groove 9mm from the base of the drawer front. Secure the drawer back to the sides using adhesive and screws, then attach the base, leaving a 3mm lip at the front. Apply adhesive and slot the drawer into the groove on the back of the drawer front, adding the handles.



5 Glue the layers

Separate the sides and back of the table. On a flat surface, apply PVA adhesive to the base and position the layers, securing them with screws. Secure the drawer runners and glue the core in position, then add the top. Sand the top and base flush with the openings and edges of the inner layers.

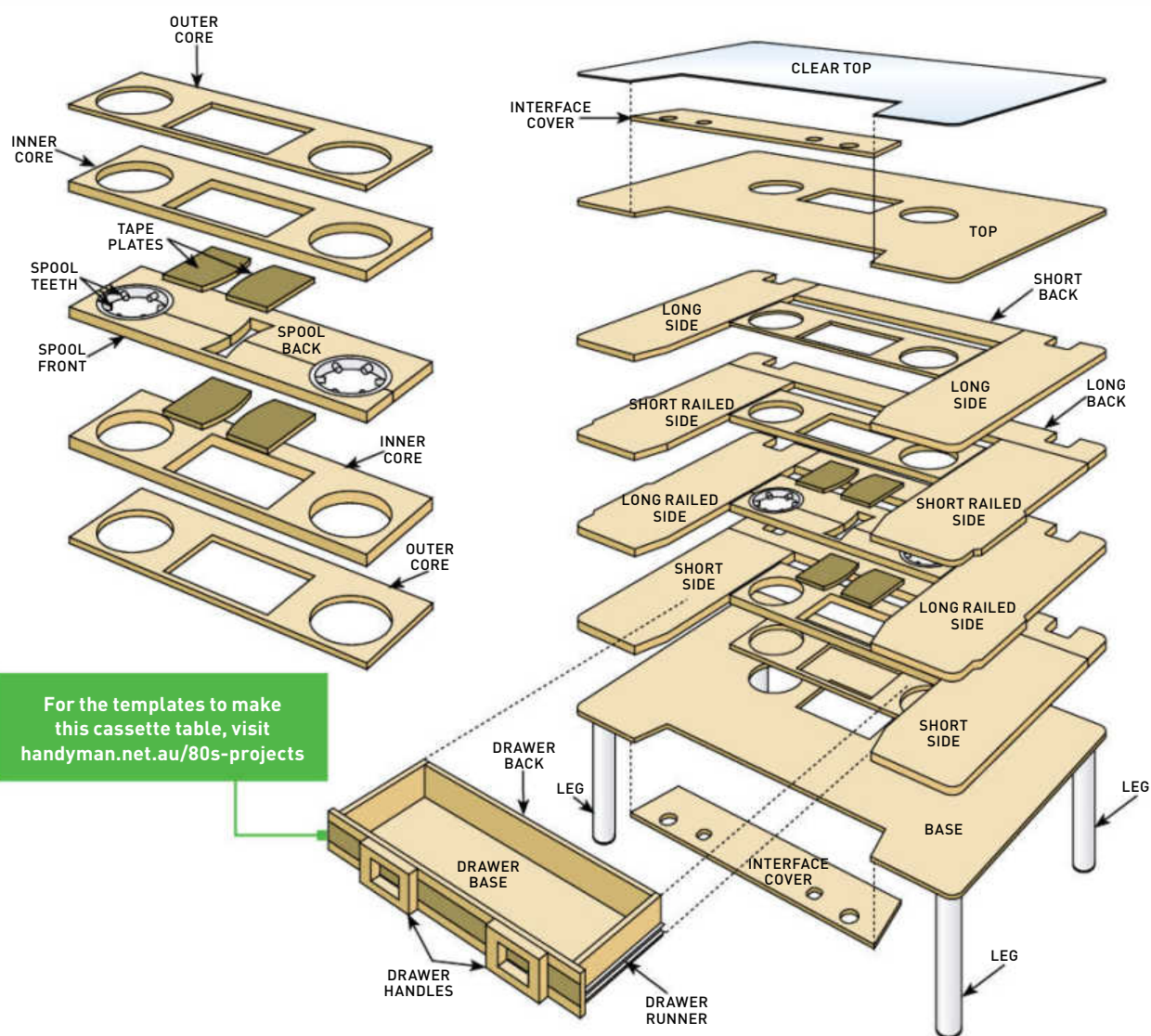


6 Add the top and legs

Use a jigsaw on low revs with the pendulum action switched off to cut the acrylic to shape. Use a coping saw to cut the openings in the interface covers, securing with adhesive. Apply two coats of clear polyurethane, then cut the legs to length. Secure them using the supplied screws. ➤

CASSETTE TABLE

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

| PART | SIZE | NO |
|--------------------|-----------------|----|
| Plywood | | |
| Long back | 1000 x 100 x 17 | 2 |
| Short back | 624 x 100 x 17 | 2 |
| Long sides | 610 x 188 x 17 | 2 |
| Short sides | 510 x 188 x 17 | 2 |
| Long railed sides | 610 x 198 x 17 | 2 |
| Short railed sides | 510 x 198 x 17 | 2 |
| Top/base | 1000 x 610 x 9 | 2 |
| Outer core | 570 x 180 x 9 | 2 |
| Inner core | 600 x 180 x 17 | 2 |
| Spool front | 600 x 74 x 17 | 1 |

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----|
| Spool back | 600 x 106 x 17 | 1 |
| Drawer face | 635 x 80 x 9 | 1 |
| Drawer back | 600 x 55 x 9 | 1 |
| Drawer sides | 230 x 55 x 17 | 2 |
| Drawer base | 600 x 242 x 3 | 1 |
| Drawer handles | 130 x 80 x 17 | 2 |
| Tape plates | 125 x 88 x 9 | 4 |
| Interface covers | 795 x 150 x 9 | 2 |
| Dowel | | |
| Spool teeth | 20 x 12 | 12 |
| Acrylic | | |
| Clear top | 1000 x 610 x 6 | 1 |

FASTENERS

| TYPE | USE |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Timber screws, 30mm x 8g | Securing layers |
| Timber screws, 20mm x 4g | Drawer back to sides |

SAFETY TIP

The tail fin extends just 150mm from the doors to stop the cabinet from falling over without being a trip hazard.

2
DAYS

\$337
COST

GO FOR LAUNCH



Persuading kids to put away their toys can be a battle, but giving them a rocket storage cabinet makes the job a lot more fun.

We used an orbiter vehicle (OV) from a NASA space shuttle as the inspiration for this cabinet. The shape of the aerofoils and fuselage were simplified, but the overall proportions are faithful to the original orbiter.

The cabinet was built as a carcass attached to a backing sheet cut into the silhouette of the fuselage and wing shape, called the planform. The doors and cabin are clad in Corflute, a plastic version of corrugated cardboard.



The vertical stabiliser is often referred to as a tail fin for simplicity, even by pilots

Materials

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Timber | \$164 |
| Paint, filler, marker | \$96 |
| Screws, tacks, hinges | \$39 |
| Self-adhesive sheet | \$11 |
| Corflute | \$9 |
| Copolymer sealant | \$7 |
| Chrome cabinet pulls | \$4 |
| Magnetic catch | \$3 |
| Plastic tumblers | \$2 |
| Dowel | \$2 |
| TOTAL | \$337 |

TOOLS

JIGSAW, DRILL,
CIRCULAR SAW

Finishing touches

To decorate the orbiter vehicle, download the cabin markings, then print them on self-adhesive paper and apply to the cabinet.

The easiest way to mark the details on the wing trailing edges is to simply draw them on with a paint marker such as a Posca.

Plastic drink tumblers from the supermarket painted black make excellent engine nozzles.

To keep the doors shut and make them easier to open, attach a magnetic catch and a pair of brushed chrome cabinet pulls. >

GUN'S PICKS

Zenith 8g x 30mm Zinc-plated Long Thread Timber Screws, \$4 for 30. itwproline.com.au



White Knight Splashes Water-based Enamel, \$14 for 250ml. whiteknightpaints.com.au



Boyle Industries 300 x 100 x 50mm Balsa Wood, \$16. boyleindustries.com.au



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BUILD THE CABINET



1 Cut the pieces

Make templates for the shelves, door ribs and cabin supports, marking them on plywood and cutting out with a jigsaw. Use a pull saw to tidy up the notches in the ends of the door ribs. Cut the sides using a circular saw.



2 Assemble the carcass

Clamp the shelves between the sides, securing with screws and PVA adhesive. Secure the divider/tail fin between the base and first shelf with adhesive and screws. Trim the base ribs to fit on each side of the tail with 2mm clearance.



3 Build the doors

Use a pull saw or dovetail saw to make relief cuts for 17 x 15mm half-lap housings in the stiles, then chisel out the waste. Position the stiles and apply adhesive, gluing all but the base pair of ribs into the housings.



4 Add the infill stiles

Apply adhesive to the door frames, then attach the infill stiles and base ribs, clamping in position. Use a jigsaw to cut a blank for the nose cap from an offcut of 90 x 35mm timber and shape it into a convex profile using a rasp.



5 Build the cabin frame

Use a sliding bevel to mark 23° angles on the sides, cutting a 17 x 15mm notch in each end. Bevel the front and back supports at 50° with a belt sander, then cut matching notches. Glue the collar to the back and supports to the sides.



6 Clad the doors and cabin

Prime and paint the door and cabin frames. Use a utility knife to cut the Corflute, scoring along the crease lines of the cabin. Bend the cladding to shape then use copolymer sealant and cut tacks to secure it.



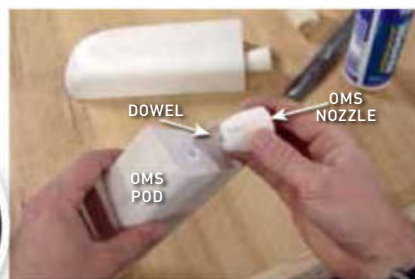
7 Secure the planform

Mark the planform on a sheet of 12mm plywood, then cut out using a jigsaw. Apply primer and two coats of paint to the carcass, leaving the back edges, then paint the planform. Leave to dry. Secure the carcass with adhesive and screws.



8 Hang the doors

Cut a groove in the nose cap edge for the barrel of a non-mortise hinge. Sand with 120 grit paper, then prime and paint. Glue and screw to the front cabin support and hang on the planform. Hang the cargo bay doors using hinges.

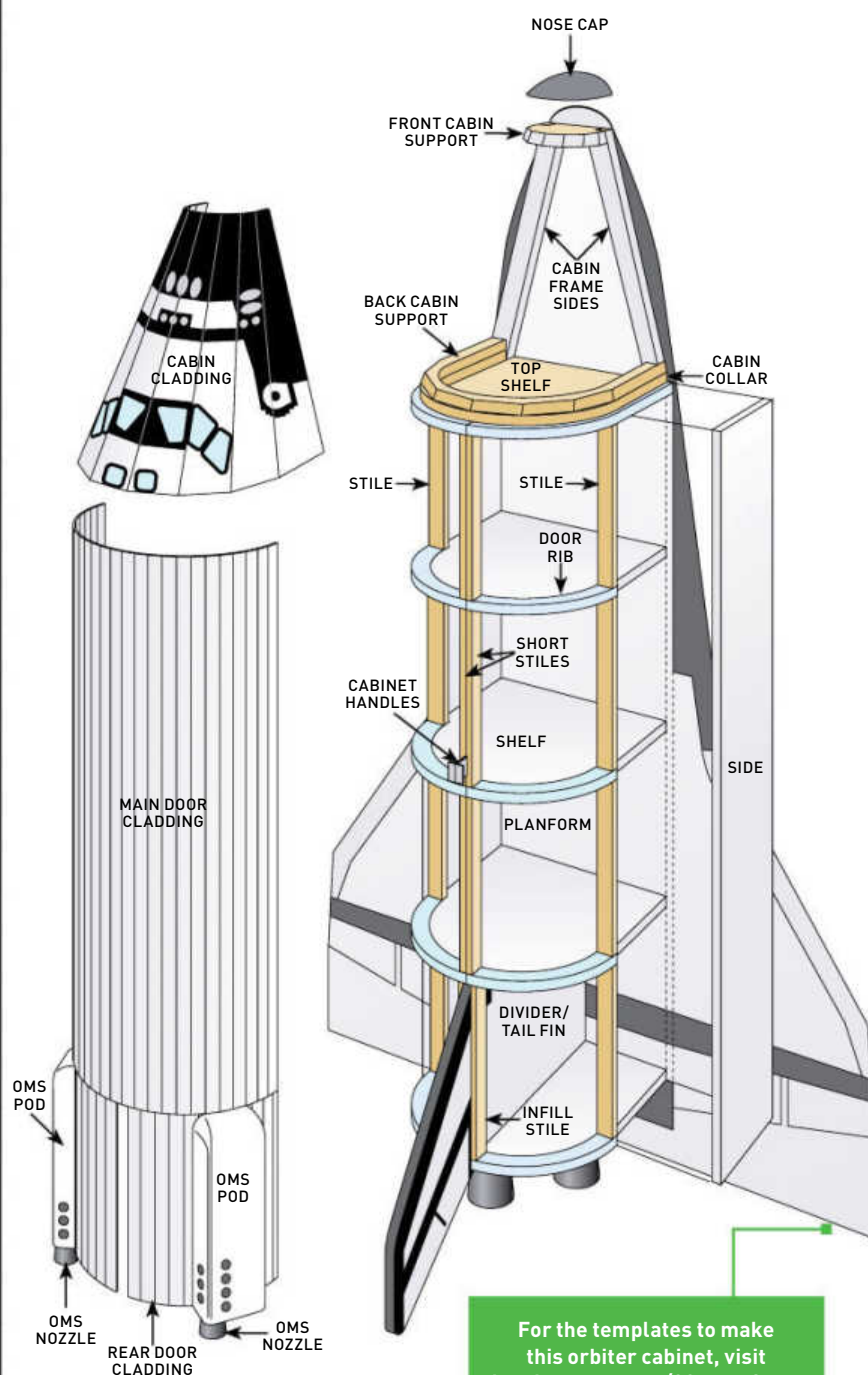


9 Attach the engines

Cut the OMS pods and make the nozzles using a 35mm holesaw. Shape the pods and nozzles using 80 grit paper, drilling 8mm holes to secure with dowels and adhesive. Attach the pods using sealant, and the main nozzles with screws. ➤

ORBITER CABINET

measurements in mm



FASTENERS

| TYPE | USE |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Countersunk timber screws, 30mm x 8g | Carcass assembly, planform attachment |
| Countersunk timber screws, 18mm x 4g | Hinges |
| Round head screws, 15mm x 8g | Main engine nozzles |
| Cut tacks, 12 x 1.6mm | Cladding |
| Non-mortise hinge, 50mm | Nose cap |
| Piano hinges, 915mm | Cargo doors |

CUTTING LIST

| PART | SIZE | NO |
|-----------------------|------------------|----|
| Plywood | | |
| Sides | 1000 x 150 x 17 | 2 |
| Shelves and door ribs | 300 x 266 x 17 | 5 |
| Divider/ tail fin | 450 x 370 x 17 | 1 |
| Front cabin support | 100 x 80 x 17 | 1 |
| Back cabin support | 300 x 300 x 17 | 1 |
| Cabin collar | 300 x 300 x 17 | 1 |
| Planform | 1500 x 900 x 12 | 1 |
| DAR Pine | | |
| Stiles | 1000 x 30 x 18 | 2 |
| Short stiles | 745 x 30 x 18 | 2 |
| Infill stiles | 235 x 30 x 18 | 2 |
| Cabin frame sides | 355 x 30 x 18 | 2 |
| Nose cap | 90 x 80 x 35 | 1 |
| Corflute | | |
| Main door cladding | 735 x 225 x 3 | 2 |
| Rear door cladding | 265 x 215 x 3 | 2 |
| Cabin cladding | 480 x 480 x 3 | 1 |
| Balsa | | |
| OMS pods | 250 x 100 x 50 | 2 |
| OMS nozzles | 50 x 35 diameter | 2 |

BLOCKED OUT

DIY TIP

Have the plywood cut into 230mm strips by your supplier for a small fee, greatly speeding up the assembly process.



Released for the first time in 1984, Tetris has become widely regarded as one of the greatest electronic games of all time.

Based on the game, this shelving system's bold colours and unusual shapes make it a real attention-grabber, and the pieces can be rearranged into literally millions of combinations.

The dimensions of the Tetrominoes are based on multiples of 230mm cubes, meaning they will fit together even when arranged at right angles.

The five basic shapes can be cut from a single sheet of structural 17mm plywood, using a circular saw and straightedge guide. ➤

Materials

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Structural plywood | \$97 |
| Dowels | \$21 |
| Timber filler | \$9 |
| Primer, sealer, undercoat | \$29 |
| Spray paint | \$52 |
| Clear polyurethane | \$41 |
| TOTAL | \$249 |

Make a jig

If you cut the pieces DIY from a full sheet of plywood, cut the lengths first, then make a jig from scrap timber to trim them to 230mm wide.

Secure a 450 x 42 x 19mm stop piece at the edge of a 600 x 400 x 12mm plywood offcut using screws, then add strips of 17mm plywood on each side, perpendicular to the stop.

Measure the offset distance from the saw blade to the side of the base plate, using it to secure a 600 x 70 x 35mm length of timber so the cut line will be exactly 230mm from the stop piece.

Clamp another 17mm offcut against the side of each workpiece you cut, to correct for the size differences of the various pieces.

TOOLS

JIGSAW, CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL, BELT SANDER

2
DAYS

\$249
COST



GUN'S PICKS



Dulux 1 Step Primer,
Sealer & Undercoat, \$27
for 500ml. dulux.com.au



Ryobi One+ 18V
Cordless Jigsaw, \$115
skin only. ryobi.com.au



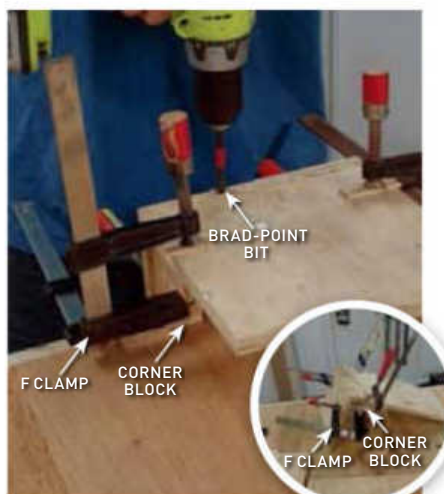
British Paints Spray
Easy, about \$7 for 310g.
britishpaints.com.au

BUILD THE SHELVES



1 Cut the pieces

Use a circular saw to cut the individual pieces. Mark the interlocking notches on the ends with a combination square, cutting them with a jigsaw. Cut square 90 x 90 x 45mm blocks from 90 x 45mm timber, then cut a notch out of one corner of each block, making the blocks into L shapes.



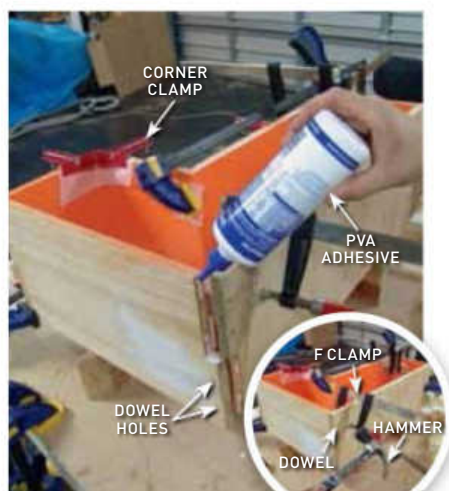
2 Assemble the corners

Apply PVA adhesive to the joining pieces of the internal corners of the shelving. Align them at 90° using the L-shaped corner blocks held in position with F clamps. Use an 8mm brad point bit to bore 40mm holes in the overlapping joints. Glue in 38 x 8mm dowels, leave to dry, then fill over.



3 Paint the interiors

The interiors of the shapes will be awkward to paint after assembly, so apply the finish first. Sand lightly with 120 grit paper, wipe clean, then mask off the interlocking surfaces. Use a brush or roller to apply primer, then finish with two coats of spray paint in the colours of your choice.



4 Complete the pieces

Test-fit the pieces and check for square, then use corner clamps to hold the pieces in alignment. Use a drill with an 8mm brad point bit to bore holes 36mm deep into the joints. Loosen the clamps and apply adhesive then tap in the dowels and leave to dry.



5 Trim and sand

Once the adhesive is dry, remove the clamps and use a pull saw or oscillating tool to cut the dowels flush with the exterior surfaces. Apply timber filler in a suitable colour to cover any gaps and imperfections, then sand any excess filler flush with the surface using 120 grit paper.

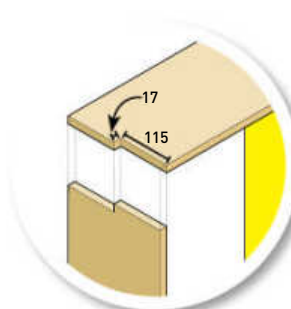
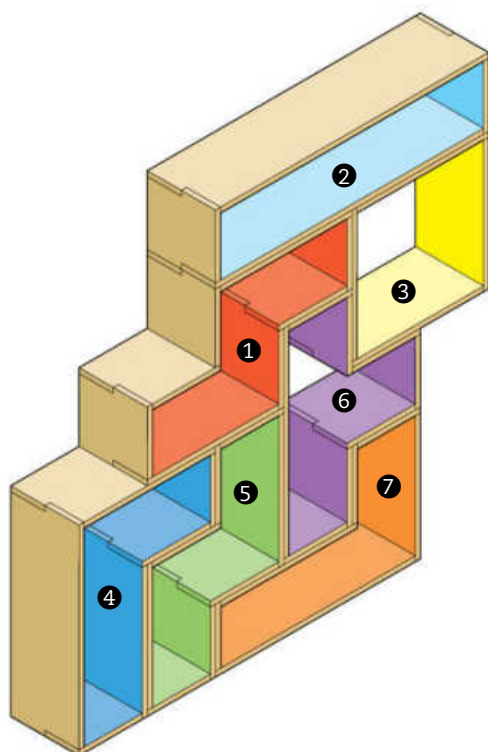


6 Sand and finish

Use a belt sander with an 80 grit then 120 grit belt to sand the corners smooth and even up the edges, finishing with a random orbital sander. Mask off the interiors and apply stain or clear polyurethane to the exterior surfaces of the shapes, sanding lightly between coats. 🌿

TETRIS SHELVES

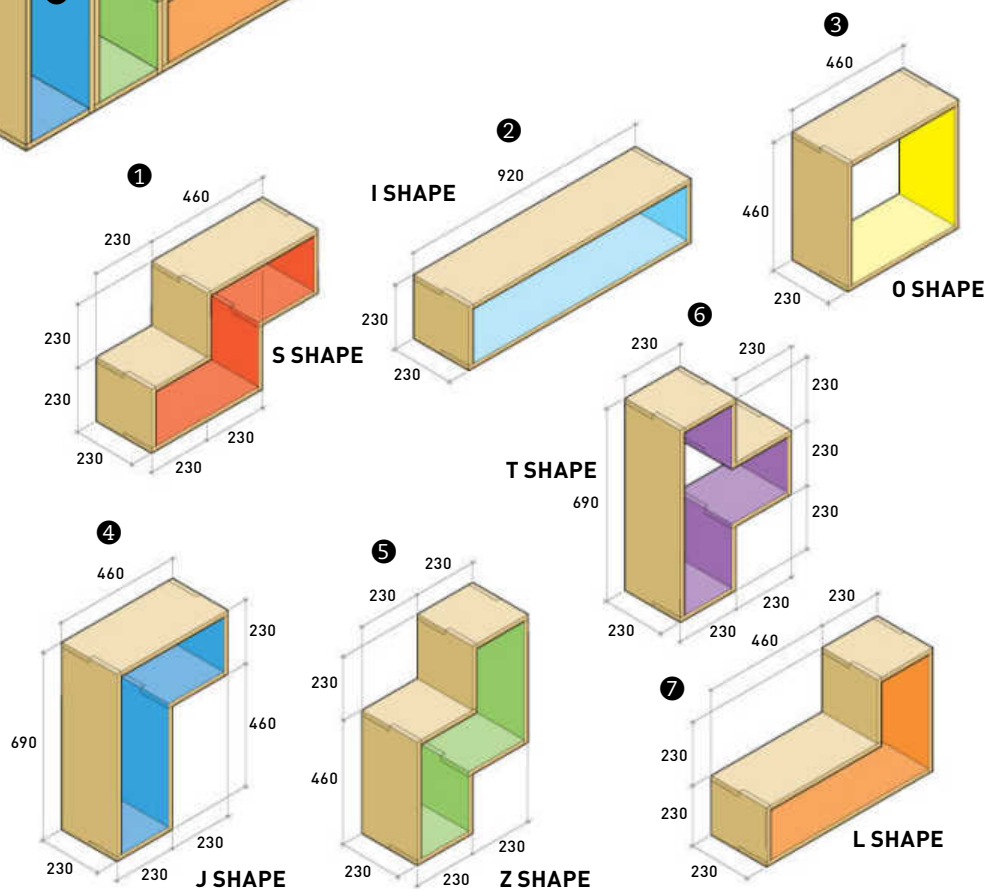
measurements in mm



JOINT DETAIL

CUTTING LIST

| PART | SIZE | NO |
|----------------|----------------|----|
| Plywood | | |
| O shape | 460 x 230 x 17 | 4 |
| I shape | 920 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| | 230 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| L and J shapes | 690 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| | 477 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| | 460 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| | 247 x 230 x 17 | 2 |
| | 230 x 230 x 17 | 4 |
| S and Z shapes | 460 x 230 x 17 | 4 |
| | 247 x 230 x 17 | 8 |
| | 230 x 230 x 17 | 4 |
| T shape | 690 x 230 x 17 | 1 |
| | 247 x 230 x 17 | 4 |
| | 230 x 230 x 17 | 3 |



JIGSAW TABLETOP

Design a new top for an old frame using laminate floor swatches

WORDS FRANK GARDNER STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ MAIN PICTURE SUE FERRIS

The frame of this coffee table was in good condition, but the glass top had been broken and needed replacing.

Cutting a new piece of glass to size would have been expensive, so the top was replaced with a creative solution for a fraction of the cost.

Ten 355 x 195mm laminate floating floor swatches in a variety

of colours and grains were bought for \$1 each from the hardware store.

The swatches were arranged on a 9mm thick MDF backing board and attached with contact adhesive.

To cut the swatch board into pieces, a tablesaw was used to maintain 90° corners and straight edges. The pieces were then attached to a second MDF board to create the tabletop.



The new tabletop cost less than \$30 and took just three hours to make

WHAT YOU NEED



Selleys Kwik Grip Horizontal Contact Adhesive, \$11 for 250ml. selleys.com.au



Ryobi 1800W 254mm Table Saw, \$479. ryobi.com.au



1 Secure the swatches

Use the supplied notched applicator to apply contact adhesive to a 9mm MDF board and the underside of the swatches, then leave until touch dry. Position the swatches, aligning their edges carefully, then press firmly.



2 Cut the pieces

Use a tablesaw to cut the swatches into rectangles and squares of varying sizes, maintaining pressure against the fence to ensure square cuts.

TIP Use a push stick to guide the board past the blade for safety.



3 Make the top

Arrange the laminate pieces on a second piece of 9mm MDF board, securing them in position with PVA adhesive, keeping the butt joints tight. Clamp until dry, then secure the top to the table frame using screws.



Finishing the top

The MDF-backed laminate pieces were arranged in a pattern on a second 9mm board that was cut to fit the table frame.

When the swatch pattern was complete, the pieces were secured using PVA adhesive.

The new 18mm thick top was dropped into the table frame recess and secured to the metal support lugs underneath using 15mm x 6g timber screws.

DIY TIP

When cutting the pieces for the tabletop, face the laminate swatches upwards on the tablesaw for a clean edge cut.



The new laminate tabletop brings character and individuality to this living space.

UPCYCLE AND SAVE CASH

Revive favourite old pieces of furniture or scour op-shops, garage sales and council clean-ups for bargains to do up

PROJECTS AMANDA SHAW AND TRACY MARYON PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

Are you bored with the same old bedside tables? Before getting rid of them and buying new ones, consider upcycling them for a totally new look.

Or maybe you've been hanging onto that favourite wicker table with the cracked glass top, but don't really know what to do with it now.

Here we created a unique planter out of an old metal colander, gave outdated mahogany bedside cabinets a new paint finish and turned a wicker table into an oversized ottoman.

We also transformed a plain basket into a place fit for a princess pussycat.

You can use the same techniques to make over just about anything.



Amanda & Tracy

EXPERT SECRETS

When giving furniture a distressed paint finish, sand the edges lightly until you achieve the desired look.

Whatever you have in your home that you think is past its prime can easily be given a new lease of life

TOP PICKS



Brunnings Coconut Fibre, \$7 for 5L. brunnings.com.au



Flexovit 100mm x 1m Medium 120 Grit Timber Sandpaper Roll, \$2. saint-gobain.com.au

Whites Outdoor 460mm Zinc Plated Hanging Basket Chain Set, \$3. whitesgroup.com.au



① Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Satin Ivory Silk, \$12 for 340g. rustoleum.com.au ② Dulux Duramax Metallic Finish in Gold, about \$14 for 325g. dulux.com.au ③ White Knight Super Chrome, \$22 for 300g. whiteknightpaints.com.au ④ Dulux Duramax Enamel in Endless Dusk, about \$11 for 340g.

COLANDER PLANTER

You may have an old colander like this lying at the bottom of your kitchen drawers or even packed away in storage.

If not, they can often be picked up second-hand for about \$10. Or better still, look for a free one on the next council clean-up day. This chipped red one was a great find among a heap of discarded items.

We've put it to good use as a novel planter and hung it from a tree.

All you need is exterior spray paint, a chain with an S-hook, coconut fibre, potting mix and a plant.

Attach the chain by inserting the attached clips into the holes around the colander. Spray it in metallic gold paint, line the base and sides with coconut fibre, then add the potting mix and a flowering plant. ➤



For good coverage, apply two coats of spray paint.



Before



After

Painted and potted up, the shiny gold planter adds colour to a dull corner of the garden.

VINTAGE CABINETS

Apply a light final coat so it is easier to rub back.

These outdated mahogany bedside cabinets were bought at a garage sale for \$20 and badly needed a new finish.

We chose a beach-house distressed finish with sky-blue and neutral shades and also applied primer so we could bring in a white colour element when the two top coats were rubbed back.

Remove the drawer handles, then prime the cabinets and drawers. Apply a coat of blue paint, allow to dry, then spray with a coat of beige paint.

Sand the edges of the cabinets and drawers with medium-grit sandpaper to reveal the blue paint, primer and a little of the wood grain underneath.

We sprayed the original handles in a light-grey colour and rubbed them back to give them a softer silvery look.

Before

After

Primed and painted, this pair of bedside cabinets now have pride of place again.

WICKER OTTOMAN



After

A lick of paint and a comfy cushion give this old table a new purpose.

 See more easy upcycling projects
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman

Discovered by the side of the road, this sorry-looking relic was missing its top. As replacing the glass could be costly, we decided to give it a new function as an ottoman.

All it needed was high-density foam, which was cut to fit by the supplier, and a length of fabric.

The wicker base was then sprayed in a gloss white to freshen it up. The fabric was cut to fit around the foam and stitched in position. ➤



All it took was fabric and foam to transform this preloved piece into a great outdoor accessory



Before

PUSSYCAT BASKET

Does your precious feline friend need a comfy place to hang out, somewhere special she can call her own? Then this posh palace could be just the thing.

And should she need to visit the vet, an incredible carriage awaits her.

Found in bad repair, this basket was lovingly renovated with paint, fabric, a cushion insert, ribbon, cat collars, particleboard letters and glitter, plus the essential mouse house guest.

Spray the basket all over in pink and paint the handle in a contrasting grey colour. To give a glittery effect, we used a specialty spray paint in silver.

Make a mattress by covering a cushion insert with fabric. We chose a sequinned material in dark pink for contrast and extra glam.

To decorate, tie two cat collars onto the door, then secure the door to the top of the basket with lengths of ribbon, tied in bows.

Stick particleboard letters, available from Kmart, on the top of the basket to form a name plate.

For extra bling, add diamanté self-adhesive transfers to the letters and handle of the basket, available from arts and craft stores. ✨

DIY TIP

Choose paint and fabric in colours and textures to suit the breed and temperament of your cat.

Before



After

Decorated with paint and bright accessories, any proud cat would be happy to call this home.

PICTURE (BEFORE) AMANDASHAW

Handyman

On sale 25 February

NEXT ISSUE

OUTDOOR

Build a raised garden bed in just a few hours using timber sleepers and metal posts.

PLUS Lay mulch to save water and stop weeds.

RENOVATE

Turn the bathroom into a luxury retreat with inspirational ideas and tips for maximising space.

PLUS Ventilation and waterproofing basics.

GARDEN

Revive a flowerbed with low-care succulents and plant onions now for a crop next spring.

PLUS A round-up of the best plants for pots.

Find it at Bunnings

FEATURE WALL

To add visual interest to your home, create a feature wall using wallpaper or paint. It's the ideal way to create a focal point in almost any room or space.

A feature wall needs to be large enough to take your chosen colour, pattern or effect. It could be an alcove, a backdrop to shelving or artwork, or even a chimney breast.

TIP Avoid walls with doors or windows.

1 Select the effect

When choosing a feature wall colour or pattern, consider the rest of the room and the impact you want to achieve.

Choose a favourite colour or go for a complementary pattern.

For a really eye-catching effect, explore other options such as sheets of pressed metal, timber panels or brick cladding.

2 Pick the paint

Painting a single wall is a cost-effective way to instantly transform a room.

Get a selection of colour charts and paint swatches from the hardware store and use them to test different colours.

You can buy sample pots and paint the colour on canvases or the wall to see if you like it.

3 Choose the paper

If you want to create the feature using wallpaper, pick up samples to see which patterns and colours work best.

There are a lot of designs and textures on offer, or you can use a paintable wallpaper.

A feature wall doesn't have to be bold, as a textured finish in neutral tones also has impact.

The Sikkens logo is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. It is positioned at the top center of the advertisement, above the main headline. The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of a well-maintained outdoor wooden deck with a swimming pool and a dining table with chairs.

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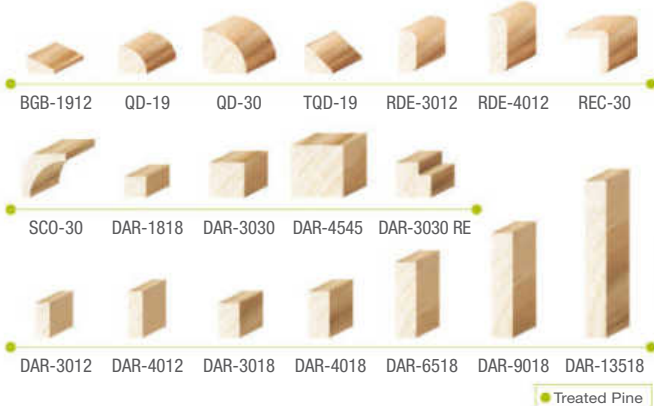
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This month

Stay on top of watering to enjoy the last blooms and crops of summer

Flowers to sow

Plan ahead for mid-autumn colour with these bloomers.

- ✦ FRENCH MARIGOLD
- ✦ AGERATUM
- ✦ IMPATIENS
- ✦ LOBELIA
- ✦ NIGELLA

Nigella

Vegies to grow

Get the vegetable patch ready for autumn cooking.

- ✦ SPRING ONIONS
- ✦ BEETROOT
- ✦ CARROT
- ✦ RADISH
- ✦ TURNIP

Carrots

Do now

- ✦ CHOOSE the right plants for your garden and climate, page 114.
- ✦ HARVEST herbs and freeze or dry them for winter cooking, page 120.
- ✦ ADD summer stars for an instant tropical touch, page 128.

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

✦ **DIANTHUS JOLT** Growing to 50cm high and spreading to 35cm, this dianthus comes in 'Pink' and 'Cherry'.

A season-long performer, it can withstand our hot summer conditions and continues flowering without setting seed. Give it a position in full sun in beds or pots, using the cut flowers for vase arrangements.

✦ **HEMEROCALLIS 'STELLA BELLA'** This stunning but hardy dwarf day lily features yellow-gold flowers on long stems with evergreen foliage.

Blooming for up to six months, it grow to 40 x 40cm and has low water needs once established. Mass plant for a stunning low-maintenance display in a position with full sun.



Dianthus jolt



Stella bella

To-do list

Stay on top of these late summer gardening jobs.

- ✓ **ORDER** spring bulbs for autumn planting.
- ✓ **CHECK** for any water restrictions in your area.
- ✓ **PREPARE** the soil for autumn flower and vegetable plantings.
- ✓ **SPRAY** roses for pests or disease if needed.
- ✓ **TAKE** semi-ripe cuttings of azalea, camellia and gardenia in warm zones.
- ✓ **MOW** lawns regularly to prevent weeds seeding.
- ✓ **ADD** a water feature and landscape the area for a lush spring display.
- ✓ **KEEP** mulch topped up to retain moisture and suppress weeds. ➤

Treat water-repellent soil for good garden health.



Water smart, not hard

To ensure plants are getting the water they need in summer, it's important to check soil is absorbing water properly.

Seasol has a wetter and conditioner that actually improves the condition of soil. Just use a watering can or hose it on for healthy, hydrated plants.



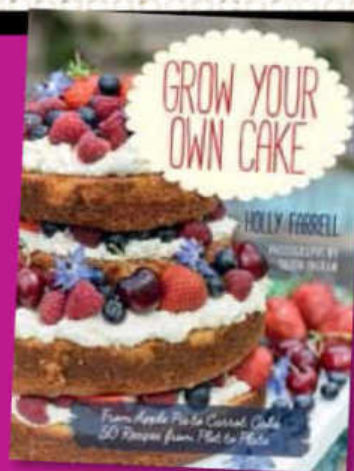
Seasol Super Soil Wetter & Conditioner, about \$19 for a twin pack. seasol.com.au

BOOK CLUB



Juicing has many health benefits and it's a great way to use your homegrown crops, but creating tasty combinations can be hard.

The Perfect Juice by dietitian Gabrielle Maston (New Holland, \$25) will help you experiment with vegies, fruits, herbs and spices to make nutritious juices.



Green thumbs with a sweet tooth can put their garden to delicious use with *Grow Your Own Cake* by keen baker and horticulturalist Holly Farrell (Quarto, \$35).

Featuring '50 Recipes from Plot to Plate', this book will make you look at your vegie patch and fruit trees in a whole new way.

Feed now

Summer edibles need fertilising, as do certain bloomers.

- ✦ SPRING-FLOWERING CLIMBERS
- ✦ LEAFY VEGETABLES
- ✦ PAWPAW
- ✦ CITRUS
- ✦ ROSES



Citrus

Prune now

Trim and shape these plants before autumn starts.

- ✦ FLOWERED SHRUBS
- ✦ MOCK ORANGE
- ✦ APRICOT TREES
- ✦ WEIGELA
- ✦ ABELIA



Weigela

Harvest now

Pick these summer fruits off the tree and vine.

- ✦ STRAWBERRIES
- ✦ NECTARINES
- ✦ ORANGES
- ✦ BANANAS
- ✦ GRAPES



Grapes

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Placement perfection

Find the right spot for plants and
your garden will be a great success

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

BUDGET TIP

You can avoid wasting money removing a plant or fixing any damage it may have caused by making the correct choices.

Selecting the right plants for your garden is not always an easy task.

Just take a walk around the block and you'll see all the gardening blunders. Climbers bringing down fences, trees uprooting paths and plants going feral and overtaking the garden.

Plant placement is one of the key steps to having a thriving garden. No matter how intrinsically beautiful, vigorous or colourful it is, a plant must have the climate and soil, light or shade and dryness or moisture that suits it.



Buy from your local nursery as they stock what grows well in your area.



Every plant will be able to reach its full potential and purpose if you pick the ideal position for it



Do your research

To make sure you have the right plant for the right place, always do your research, rather than just buying it first and then trying to place it.

Don't buy a plant because it's very vigorous and hardy as, in the long run, it may not be suitable for your garden.

When making a choice, climate plays a big part, as a plant that is very well behaved in a cool climate could get out of control in a hot climate. ➤



CLIMBERS

Versatile, visually impressive and useful, climbing plants are invaluable decorating tools. Used with ingenuity, they can soften dominating walls while taking up limited ground space.

They provide a creative solution as well when used in conjunction with pergolas to provide privacy and shade.

But when choosing a climber, you need to make sure that its growth habit is equal to the intended task and that the plant is suitable for its support.

Bear this in mind, in particular, with plants such as wisteria, potato vine, bougainvillea and creeping fig.

Wisteria

This deciduous plant looks stunning with its pendulous blooms in spring.

✦ **UPSIDE** Grown over a pergola, it offers summer shade and winter sun.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** A vigorous climber, the support must be strong or it will eventually be pulled down. Prune long canes in spring and late summer to keep it under control. The roots can also invade sewerage pipes.

Creeping fig

A wonderful climber, creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) is a self-clinger, using aerial roots to attach itself to a wall.

✦ **UPSIDE** The small young leaves lie against the wall, effectively covering it and creating a pretty picture.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** Creeping fig needs to be pruned constantly or it will send out long woody branches with larger, less-appealing leaves.

Potato vine

The pretty white flowers appear throughout spring and summer.

✦ **UPSIDE** A potato vine is useful for providing quick cover.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** It becomes very invasive and can rapidly overrun everything in its path unless it is kept under control by regular pruning. It has the potential to become an environmental weed.

Bougainvillea

This favourite looks fantastic for months, covered in colourful bracts.

✦ **UPSIDE** Drought-tolerant, it will thrive on neglect and still put on a fabulous flower show. It's great for covering walls and fences.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** Thorns grow on the stems, so take care where you plant it. Trim long water shoots, which are thorny and produce few flowers.

GROW TIP

Think carefully before planting evergreen trees, as they can permanently block your neighbours' and your own light.

TREES

Citrus

Not only do they provide shade, wind protection, clean air and a habitat for wildlife, trees beautify the landscape.

As with plants, they need to be planted in a spot and climate that suits them or they may not cope with the extremes of moisture or temperature and will never look healthy.

Before buying, research the height, width and growth habits of a tree at maturity, as that small stick-like plant you took home from the nursery could reach an enormous height.

Trees, such as jacaranda, casuarina poplar, liquid amber and fig, can also create problems if planted too close to foundations or over sewerage pipes.

For details on the distance popular trees should be planted from sewerage lines, visit watercorporation.com.au.

Citrus, frangipani, flowering plum, crepe myrtle (Indian Summer Series) and olive are ideal for a small yard.

HEDGES

A green hedge is ideal for hiding ugly views and providing privacy. But pick carefully or you could end up in an unending battle to control its growth.

One of the worst is the Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*), which has been the cause of many neighbourhood disputes.

But aside from upsetting neighbours by blocking light and views, it is fast growing and needs constant pruning. If left unpruned, it can grow to 20m.

There are lots of well-behaved options, including native lillypilly, camellia, box-leaved honeysuckle, pittosporum, oleander, silver-leaved *Teucrium fruticans*, photinia, *Viburnum tinus* or blue-flowering plumbago.

Scented choices such as murraya, osmanthus and port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*) will make both you and your neighbours feel good. ➤

Viburnum tinus

Native garden escapes

Not all invasive plants are imported, as when they're taken out of their natural climate, native plants can also become weedy. This can happen due to a lack of controlling natural influences.

The conditions in their new home may be so good that they turn rampant and reproduce too freely. Some hakeas, eucalyptus and melaleucas are listed as environmental weeds.

Even the wattle, Australia's floral emblem, is implicated. The golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is on the list, as is the Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), which is now often referred to as the 'cootamongrel' wattle.

Pittosporum and the umbrella tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*) have also established themselves in many areas outside their natural habitats.

✦ **GO INDIGENOUS** While a native plant garden uses plants from all over the country, an indigenous garden uses those that are local to an area. This means they are particularly well suited to the climate and soil.

Check out your local nursery or ask your local council, as many have lists of indigenous plants.

The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) gives details on indigenous plants, including information on their native habitats (anpsa.org.au).

Cootamundra wattle



Pittosporum



Spot weed potential

Australia's diverse climate makes it even hard for experts to know whether or not an ornamental grown in one area is invasive in another.

The capacity of some to get out of control often depends on the climate and soil type.

One that grows normally in a perennial border in one state may act like a complete thug in another state, or in a different climate within that state.

Check with your local council or Weeds Australia (weeds.org.au) to ensure that a particular plant is not a problem in your area.

Umbrella tree



FABULOUS BUT FERAL

These are just a few of the commonly grown ornamentals that can go feral in your garden. They're also escaping from gardens and invading bushland.

✦ **WHITE ARUM LILY** (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) Popular for its glossy leaves and white flowers, this is listed as a noxious weed in WA and an environmental weed in Victoria, NSW, SA and Tasmania.

PLANT Native crinum.

✦ **BUTTERFLY BUSH** (*Buddleia davidii*) The mauve flowers of this shrub attract butterflies and it spreads easily by seed.

PLANT Cultivars don't self seed, so these are good choices.

✦ **GLORY LILY** (*Gloriosa superba*) This climber with big red and yellow blooms is a pest in warm climates.

PLANT Liliaceae.

✦ **ITALIAN LAVENDER** (*Lavandula stoechas*) This plant is listed as a noxious weed in Victoria and an environmental weed in SA and WA.

PLANT English or French lavender.

✦ **FORGET-ME-NOT** (*Myosotis sylvatica*) In cool climates, this plant can cause problems.

PLANT Perennial forget-me-not (*Brunnera macrophylla*).

✦ **COSMOS** (*Cosmos bipinnatus*) This annual plant seeds freely and is a problem in parts of Victoria and Queensland.

PLANT Perennial chocolate cosmos.

✦ **BUSY LIZZIE** (*Impatiens walleriana*) As the common name of this plant indicates, it is spread easily by seed and is causing problems in NSW and Queensland.

PLANT New Guinea impatiens. ✦

Butterfly bush

Cosmos

Glory lily

Busy Lizzie

Forget-me-not

White arum lily

Italian lavender

HAVE HERBS AT HAND

Grow these aromatic edibles to help turn
an ordinary dish into a culinary masterpiece

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Flavoursome herbs are must-have tools in a cook's kitchen kit, and a dash of herbal flair can make all the difference to a meal.

As well as enhancing your food, herbs are endowed with sumptuous leaves and flowers that introduce delightful fragrances to your garden.

They're in abundance at this time of the year, but any surplus won't go to waste, as you can dry or freeze them for winter when they are scarce.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Grow herbs based on what you like to eat.

If you favour Asian food, plant coriander, lemongrass and basil. If Italian is your style, you'll need oregano, thyme and parsley.

HOW TO GROW

You don't need green thumbs to grow most herbs and you don't even need a garden, as they grow well in pots when given adequate space.

Dedicating an area to herbs close by the kitchen door is an ideal way to make night harvesting easy. But if you don't have room for this, you can just plant them in the vegetable patch and flowerbeds.

Coriander, rocket, parsley and mint will tolerate a little shade, but give other herbs the sunniest position available, with well-drained soil or a good-quality potting mix. ➤

DIY TIP

Tie fresh herbs together with twine or put dried herbs in a muslin bag to create a bouquet garni to flavour soups and stews.

Harvest herbs in the morning when aromatic oil concentration is highest.

Summer cuts

Pick herbs regularly during the summer months to promote branching and autumn growth, and remove the flowers when they appear to encourage new usable leaves for the kitchen.

Mint is easy to grow and spreads very quickly.

Use the flowers of herbs as a pretty garnish for your culinary creations

WHAT TO PLANT

PERENNIALS

While most perennial herbs are evergreen, providing leaves all year, it's a good idea to preserve a quantity for winter when growth is slow.

They like well-drained soil and need less water than annuals. Feed them in spring and summer with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

Chives

Chives are easy to grow in beds and containers. Garlic chives have flat leaves and don't die down in winter. The flowers make a great garnish.

- ✦ **GROW** Sow the seeds in summer and early autumn. Divide clumps every second year in early spring.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.

Marjoram

The oval-shaped leaves of this herb are used for flavouring meat and pasta dishes, and the small white flowers make a great garnish.

- ✦ **GROW** Prune off flowerheads when they appear for a good supply of leaves. Keep the soil moist.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.

Lemongrass

The white base of the leaf is widely used in Asian cuisine and the leaves make a refreshing tea.

- ✦ **GROW** The 1.5m long leaves of this easy-to-grow clumping grass make a statement planted in garden beds or large pots.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Pick the stalks as needed, either cutting or snapping them off at ground level.

GROW TIP

Plant herbs near your vegetable garden, as many of the flowers attract bees that will help pollinate your crop.

Bay leaf

Fresh or dried bay leaves are essential to add flavour to soups, casseroles and stews.

- ✦ **GROW** In a garden bed, this small evergreen tree can reach a height of 11m, but it can be pruned lower or shaped for container cultivation.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh, or freeze or dry whole leaves.



Oregano

The leaves of this spreading herb work well in Italian dishes and soups and stews. The small purple flowers make a pretty garnish.

✚ **GROW** Cut off spent flowerheads to encourage more leaves. Harvest the leaves now for drying to promote more growth throughout autumn.

✚ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.



Mint

There are many different types of mint with a variety of flavours, and they are used in Asian dishes, potato salads, sauces and fruit salads.

✚ **GROW** Plant in a damp spot or in a pot and stand in a saucer of water. Mint can be grown in semi-shade.

✚ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them.



Sage

The grey-green leaves of sage team well with duck, poultry, casseroles and soups.

✚ **GROW** It needs well-drained soil and good air movement around it to perform well. Prune back the stems when the flowers have finished.

✚ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.



Rosemary

Used with lamb and other meats, the leaves are also great sprinkled on roast vegies or added to tomato soup.

✚ **GROW** It reaches about 1.5m high but can be pruned back. There are groundcover types that can be grown in pots. It likes a slightly alkaline soil and is very drought-tolerant.

✚ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze, or dry them.



Thyme

This herb teams well with Italian dishes, soups and stews. Lemon thyme goes well with fish and you can also grow 'Pizza' thyme.

✚ **GROW** After flowering, lightly trim to encourage more leaves and extend its life span. The flowers can be eaten and used as a garnish.

✚ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them. ➤

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ANNUALS

Treat annual herbs as you would salad vegetables and give them plenty of food and water.

Before planting, enrich the soil with compost or cow manure, then water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble complete plant food to encourage new leaves.



Basil

There are many different types of basil suited to a variety of cooking styles. Plant 'Lemon' or 'Thai' basil if you like Asian cuisine.

✦ **GROW** Get seedlings in the ground now to enjoy the leaves until the cool weather arrives.

✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.



Chervil

The parsley-like leaves of this herb have a mild aniseed flavour. Chop and add to dishes just before serving, as heat diminishes the flavour.

✦ **GROW** It likes a semi-shaded spot in moist soil and, if you let one plant go to seed, it will reappear annually. Sow the seeds until early autumn.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh.

Coriander

The leaves, stems, seeds and roots are used in Asian recipes.

✦ **GROW** Plant slow-bolting varieties of coriander, as it tends to run to seed in hot weather. In cool weather, it doesn't bolt to seed as quickly.

✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.



Parsley

Grow biennial curly or flat-leaved parsley for use in summer salads, soups and casseroles.

✦ **GROW** Plant seedlings or grow from seed. Parsley is a very greedy herb, so regular feeding is essential to keep it producing leaves.

✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.

Dill

This fast-growing herb features distinctive feather-like leaves and yellow flowers that attract beneficial insects into the garden. Its bittersweet tasting leaves marry well with seafood.

✦ **GROW** Plant seedlings in a sunny or lightly shaded position.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh. ➤





PRESERVING HERBS

DRYING

Herbs can be dried in dehydrators or air-dried in bunches. They can also be dried in the oven.

✦ **AIR-DRY** Strip the lower leaves from the stems and tie 6-8 stems together with a rubber band or twist ties.

Hang in a dry, well-ventilated spot until the leaves are dry and crumbly. Remove and store in an airtight tin or bottle away from bright light.

Air-drying ensures that the herbs maintain their essential oils.

✦ **OVEN-DRY** Strip the leaves from the stems and spread on an oven tray. Put in the oven at its lowest setting, leaving the door ajar to let moisture escape.

After 30 minutes, turn over and leave for a further 30 minutes or until dry. Remove from the oven and allow to cool. Store in an airtight container.



Dried herbs keep
their taste for
about a year

Drying seeds

Caraway, fennel, coriander and dill seeds can be added to many dishes.

To dry, cut the stem when the seed heads turn brown. Tie 3-4 stems together and hang upside down in a paper bag. When dry, separate the seeds and store in airtight containers.

DIY TIP

When freezing herbs in ice cube trays, you can use homemade stock instead of water to add extra flavour.



FREEZING

Chop herbs and freeze in ice cube trays or leave whole and put in freezer bags.

✦ **IN WATER** Pack chopped herbs such as basil, coriander, parsley and chives in ice cube trays, add water and freeze.

In winter, flavour soups, risottos, sauces and stews with the herb cubes.

✦ **IN OIL** Pack ice cube trays about two-thirds full of chopped herbs and pour over extra virgin olive oil. You can also use melted, unsalted butter.

This is a great way to store herbs like sage, rosemary, thyme and oregano.

For a casserole or stew, cook onions and garlic in the herb-infused oil so the aromas carry through your dish.

✦ **WHOLE LEAVES** Pick the stems of herbs and wash under cold water, then place in a salad spinner or pat dry with paper towel. Remove the leaves and put in freezer bags.



Transfer the ice cubes to freezer bags to free up your trays



Stir pesto through a bowl of pasta to get dinner on the table in a hurry.



Make pesto

While basil is traditionally used in pesto, you can make it with other herbs. Try parsley, mint or coriander, or use a mixture.

Put 2 cups herbs, 2 garlic cloves, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pine nuts and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup parmesan in a blender.

With the motor running, gradually add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup extra virgin olive oil in a steady stream until a smooth mixture forms. Place in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to a week. ✦

The bold and *the beautiful*

Plant these spectacular summer stars to give your garden an exotic tropical touch

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Big, bold and beautiful is the way many of our summer flowers can be described. And sitting in the garden among large bright blooms and tropical-looking foliage is one of the season's delights.

Think clumps of colourful cannas, tall flowering Gyneria lilies and exotic-looking ginger lilies, and you will start to picture the scene. These are the types of plants that will add glamour and pizzazz to your garden.

Heat-loving heliconias can grow up to 5m high.

CANNA

This perennial displays its blooms and bold foliage during summer and makes a big impact in warm and cold climates.

There are many hybrids of *Canna x generalis* in a range of flower and leaf colours. Some species are aquatic and look effective planted around ponds.

✦ **POSITION** Most like a sunny spot, but off-white flowering varieties prefer dappled shade. Avoid windy locations.

✦ **PLANT** Position the rhizomes so they sit just under the original soil level. They can be grown in large containers using a good-quality potting mix.

✦ **GROW** Feed in early spring with a controlled-release fertiliser. Water often in dry spells and keep mulched with sugar cane or lucerne hay.

Cut back to the ground in late winter, leaving the new young shoots, as they will flower early next season.

✦ **PROPAGATE** Divide the clumps every three years. Dig up the rhizomes late winter or early spring, pull into smaller pieces and replant at the same depth.

GROW TIP

While drought tolerant, cannas look their best when grown in moist soil that's enriched with compost or cow manure.

★
Mass plant
cannas in blocks
of a single colour
for impact in
garden beds

With bright tangerine blooms, 'Tropicanna' is a striking feature plant.

TROPICANNA CANNA

The leaves are just as flamboyant as the flowers when it comes to cannas from the Tropicanna Series.

'Tropicanna' has multi-hued foliage in shades of gold, burgundy red, pink, yellow and deep green and brilliant tangerine flowers.

'Tropicanna Black' features bold purple-black foliage and scarlet-orange flowers, while 'Tropicanna Gold' has green and gold striped leaves and yellow and orange flowers. It is tolerant of wet, poorly drained areas.

Grow 'Tropicanna' cannas in full sun or part shade.



Back to the roots

Arrowroot powder, which is used as a thickener in recipes, is made out of the dried rhizome of *Canna edulis*.

The root can also be eaten as a potato substitute. Cut it into chips, coat with oil and bake in the oven, or simply steam it or add to soups and casseroles. ➤

GYMEA LILY

Also known as Illawarra lily or flame lily, the GyMEA lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) is one of our most spectacular natives.

Its big, dark-red flowers are borne in spring on stems that reach up to 3m high with 1.5m long strap-like leaves. Even when not in flower, a GyMEA lily makes a statement in any garden bed.

✦ **POSITION** Suitable for coastal regions, it can be grown in full sun or partial shade. The flowers can be damaged by frost, but the foliage is not affected.

✦ **PLANT** Give it well-drained soil that's enriched with organic matter. It can be grown in a very large pot.

✦ **GROW** Apply fertiliser in spring and early summer, and water regularly in summer, but don't overwater.

✦ **PROPAGATE** It is easily grown from seed or from suckers found growing at the perimeter of the plant. ➤



In the wild, GyMEA lilies can be found growing in the coastal regions of south-east Queensland and northern and central NSW

A GyMEA lily can take up to five years to flower.

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TROPICAL TREATS

Ornamental gingers are iconic tropical and subtropical perennials that strut their flowers during summer.

Some are glamorous relatives of edible ginger and come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Think large vibrant leaves, striking architectural forms and flamboyant flowers.

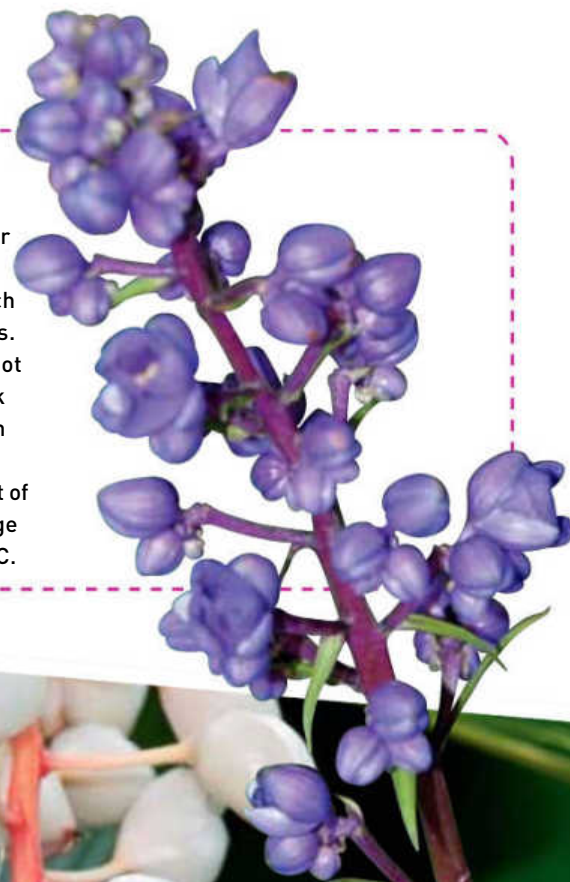
1

Blue ginger

Few flowers can match the intensity of the colour of blue ginger (*Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*), the blooms of which nestle among canna-like leaves.

Plant in the shade or in a spot that gets morning sun, cut back old stems midwinter and mulch heavily in spring.

Blue ginger reaches a height of 1.7m and can be grown in a large pot. It is tolerant of frost to -2°C.



2

Heliconia

These true tropical plants have remarkable flowers that are upright or pendulous, with foliage resembling banana leaves.

There are many species and cultivars of these heat lovers, and they'll grow as far south as Brisbane.

Water regularly, feed in spring with a complete fertiliser and give them protection from wind.



3

Beehive ginger

This genus (*Zingiber* spp.) includes our edible ginger, but other species are grown for their spectacular flowers, which look like beehives and emerge from underneath lush 120cm high foliage.

Plant in well-drained soil in sun or part shade and don't overwater. Cut back old stems in spring and feed with a high potassium complete fertiliser. They will survive extreme heat and light frosts.



4

Shell ginger

Tropical-looking foliage and large exotic-looking flowers are the hallmarks of the beautiful shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet*).

If planted in a warm frost-free spot, it will grow as far south as Melbourne. It reaches about 2m high and likes lots of moisture and nutrients during spring and summer. Cut back old stems in late winter.



5 Torch ginger

The dazzling red flowers of torch ginger (*Etlingera elatior*) look similar to waratahs.

Cultivars are available in shades of pink or white and shine among attractive dark-green tropical-looking foliage.

These tall heat-loving gingers grow from 2-5m high and are only suited to tropical and sub-tropical climates. They like rich, moist soil and partial shade.

6 Hedychium

This genus is part of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae). White ginger lily (*Hedychium coronarium*) has large perfumed flowers.

Hedychium likes semi-shade or sun. Cut back old stems in late winter and feed with a complete fertiliser.

Avoid kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), an environmental weed in north NSW and Queensland.

Did you know?

The flower buds of torch ginger are an indispensable ingredient in Malay and Nyonya (a combo of Chinese and Malay) cuisines and are used to spice up curries, laksa and seafood dishes.

Thai people use the buds, which are high in antioxidants and have antibacterial properties, in salads. 🌿



Share your favourite flower photo

Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine


What's on this February

FREE Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

| | |
|--|---|
| » Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 HOME ORGANISATION Find out how to get your place sorted | » Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 BASIC SKILLS Learn simple workshop techniques and tool skills |
| » Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY Get advice on your next renovation | » Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 WINDOWS AND DOORS We'll help you choose the right style for your home |

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FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

| | |
|---|---|
| » Saturday 6 ART CLASS Learn fun techniques with paint | » Saturday 27 FUN MOSAICS Design a masterpiece with bright mosaics |
| » Sunday 7 CRAFT Come in and have some fun getting crafty | » Sunday 28 DRESS-UPS Have fun making a costume with different materials |
| » Saturday 13 GAME MAKERS Create an awesome game to play with friends |  A photograph showing two men at a Bunnings Warehouse table. One man, wearing a grey hoodie and safety glasses, is using a tool to work on a project. The other man, wearing a red shirt and a black Bunnings Warehouse apron, is assisting him. They are surrounded by various materials and tools. The background shows shelves stocked with Bunnings products. |
| » Sunday 14 VALENTINE'S DAY Make something special for someone close | |
| » Saturday 20 DECORATOR Learn different decorating techniques | |
| » Sunday 21 WALL ART Create a masterpiece to hang at home | |

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2



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POP QUIZ!

Name that *flower*

Test your knowledge of plants by trying to identify these garden favourites. You'll find the answers at the bottom of the page.

4



5



8



7



6



PICTURES: iSTOCK (BACKGROUND); THINKSTOCK



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